THE TIMES

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SERIALS DIVISION

War cabinet escapes in audacious IRA attack on 10 Downing Street

Yard hunts two mortar bombers

Terrorists flee as van explodes

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

SCOTLAND Yard was last night hunting a two-man terrorist team which bombed 10 Downing Street with mortars from an elderly van as the war cabinet met yesterday morning. The attack was one of the most audacious ever carried out by the IRA.

One bomb exploded in the garden breaking windows, disrupting the meeting and throwing Whitehall into panic. Two other bombs landed without exploding in Mountbatten Gardens, behind the Foreign Office.

Four people, including two policemen, were slightly injured in the incident, which brought the IRA as close to the heart of British government as the Brighton bomb in 1984. In the aftermath of the blast, ministers began an urgent examination of security in Whitehall and Westminister.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary said, in a Commons statement yesterday afternoon, that there had to be a limit to safety measures and acknowledged that security had already been improved. "If one tried to make the whole of central London a cordon sanitaire, it would be a concession to terrorism." However, he said: "We must all be on guard at all times against attacks from a variety of sources."

In a statement from Dublin last night claiming responsibility for the attack, the IRA said: "The operation had been planned over a number of months. Its inception predates both John Major's coming to power and the beginning of British involvement in the Gulf war. Whether the Gulf war goes on for weeks or years, let the British government understand that, while nationalist people in the six counties are forced to live under British rule, then the British Cabinet will be forced to meet in bunkers."

As a national police hunt began for the bombers, who vanished on a motorcycle into the snow, Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist branch and the national co-ordinator of terrorist investigations, told a conference in London that the attack had been daring and well-planned.

"It is an example of how good and versatile this organisation is," he said, but added that the plan had been badly executed. "These mortars are extremelly dangerous and very inaccurate. It is a typical example of a cowardly attack which could have casued death or severe injury."

The terrorists had taken advantage of the fact that people's attention had been focused on the Gulf war. He denied, however, any suggestion that the IRA might have been acting for the Iraqis or Arab terrorist groups.

The terrorists struck just after 10am as Whitehall was covered by a snow shower. David Mellor, the Treasury chief secretary, was briefing the war cabinet on his visit to the Gulf to seek financial help with the costs of Britain's Gulf war efforts.

A white Ford transit van, bought in London six months ago, was driven up to the junction of Horse Guards Avenue and Whitehall close to the Ministry of Defence.

The roof of the van had been removed and inside a platform had been built for a crude mortar unit using metal piping. The roof had been put back in place, secured with tape, to avoid suspicion.

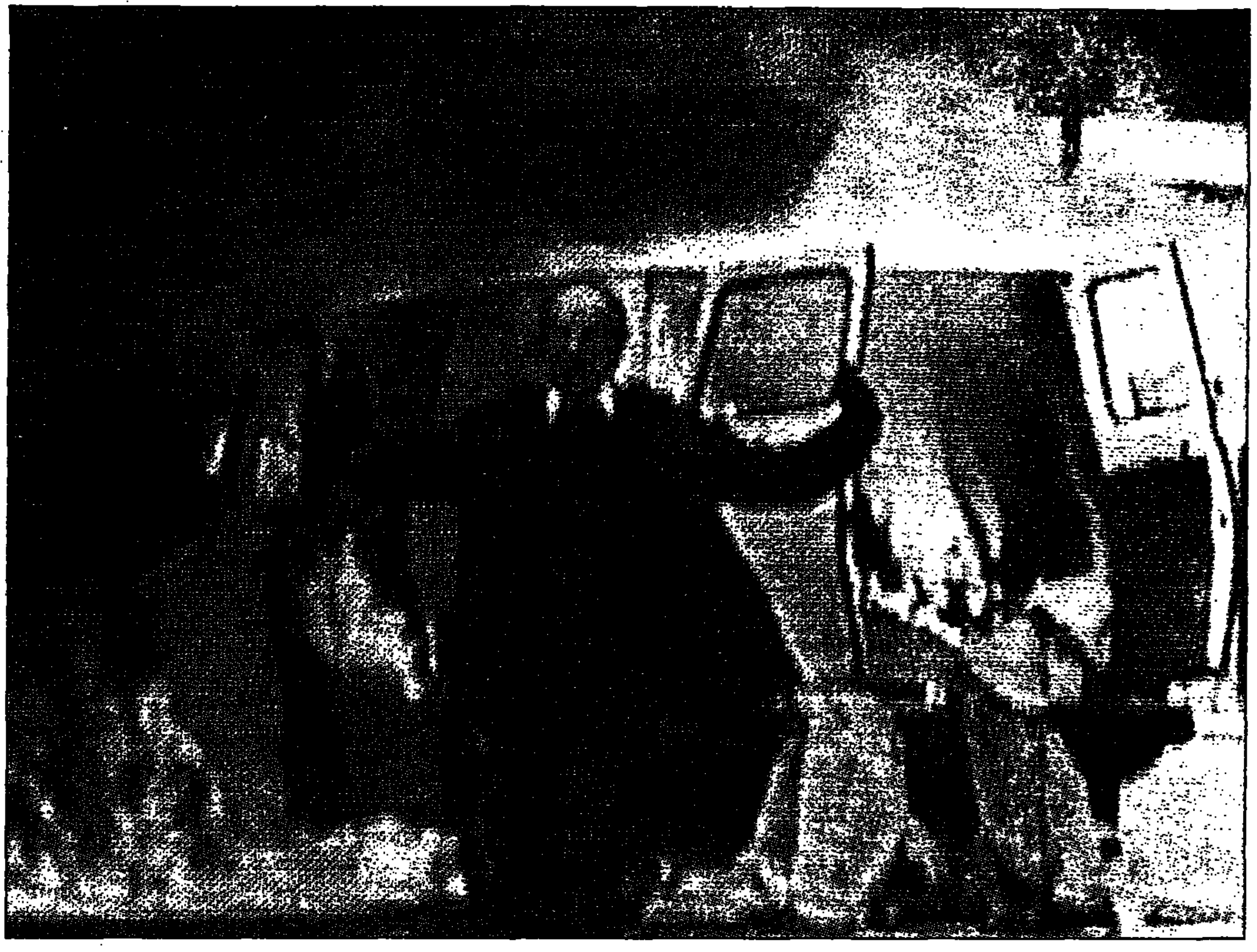
The van was abandoned at an angle. The driver ran from the van and leapt on to the pillion seat of a waiting motorcycle, which then sped off towards the Embankment. No parking is allowed in Whitehall and as a policeman went towards the van three bombs were fired through the roof. Within seconds the van exploded in a ball of fire.

One bomb exploded in the garden at the rear of 10 Downing Street, creating a bang that could be heard up to 12 miles away. Windows in Buckingham Palace and Clarence House shook.

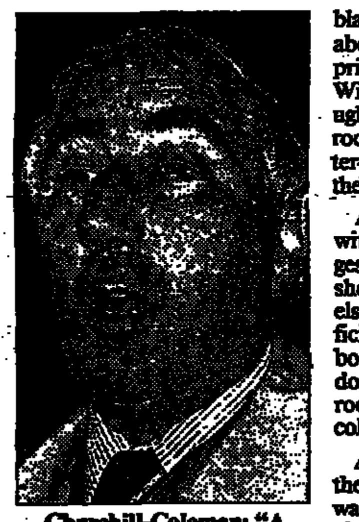
The bomb landed in the communal garden behind Nos 10, 11, and 12 Downing Street, blasting out a cherry tree about 50ft from where the prime minister was sitting. Windows were shattered throughout the block. The cabinet room windows, made of shatter-proof glass, shattered as their frames buckled.

As Whitehall collected its wits Mr Major calmly suggested that his colleagues should adjourn somewhere else. The ministers and officials went through their bomb drill, first crouching down and then leaving the room without stopping to collect their papers.

A civil servant who was in the cabinet room said: "There was a very loud bang, two plops, and a cold draught. When it happens you are surprised. You look around and find nobody has been hurt and you just get the hell out of it quickly."



Seconds after the attack a man, thought to be a police explosives expert, clears people away from the burning van from which the mortars were launched



Churchill-Coleman: "A cowardly attack"

Security implications, page 2
Birmingham Six case, page 3
Premiership perils, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Major expresses contempt

By Robin Oakley, political editor

JOHN Major, having faced the first attempt on his life after little more than two months in office, told MPs yesterday: "It was a deliberate attack to kill the Cabinet and to do damage to our democratic system of government." He added: "It failed – nor in any circumstances could it have succeeded."

The prime minister, who was cheered when he appeared in the Commons during home office questions, had been telephoned from California shortly before by Margaret Thatcher, offering her sympathy. He was also telephoned by Andrew Paddy O'Rourke, the Irish ambassador, who expressed his disgust at the attack.

Like the other members of the war cabinet, Mr Major had been stunned into silence at the time of the explosion, but remembered his bomb drill and first ducked down beneath the table, then left the room within seconds.

In the Commons later, he spoke of his "contempt" for the attackers. The IRA's tactics, he said, had failed to change government policies "by one single iota" and would not do so now. "Our determination to beat terrorism cannot be beaten by terrorism and I hope that is fully understood everywhere."

The cabinet meets regularly on a Thursday morning, and Mr Major said it was clear from the timing of the attack that it was a deliberate attempt to murder him and his senior colleagues. He added: "The IRA's record is one of failure in every respect and that failure, I think, was demonstrated yet again today. It's about time they learned that democracies cannot be intimidated by terrorism and we rightly treat them with contempt."

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, joined in the condemnation of the attack. Mr Kinnock said it was "vicious and futile" and would not "intimidate nor divert anyone in Government or opposition in this democracy". He expressed his relief that so little harm had been caused. Mr Ashdown said it was an "outrage" which would fail to deflect government policies.

Icy wind expected to bring more misery

By Richard Duce

SIBERIAN weather conditions will grip much of Britain again today and drivers are warned to stay off the roads after yesterday's blizzards left thousands of commuters to endure a lengthy and often hazardous journey home.

After a day of deaths and misery on the roads, conditions today are expected to be even worse as icy winds from Russia contine to drive across much of England.

The bitterly cold weather has spurred the Government is to ease the conditions under which people qualify for increased social security benefits to pay for fuel only if the cold weather spans seven consecutive days.

John Major, the prime minister, said the qualification period would be waived in view of the exceptional weather, and the £5 a week payment would be increased to £6 immediately.

The AA yesterday reported blizzard conditions and reduced visibility on motorways in the south with some routes looking like car parks as traffic ground to a halt. At one stage there was a nine-mile tailback on the M62 in greater Manchester.

With temperatures failing to rise above minus 5C in the south yesterday the message from both the London Weather Centre and the AA was:"It will get worse before it gets better." Forecasters predict more heavy snowfalls and the cold spell to last at least another five days.

All motorways were only passable with care last night and roads across the Pennines were blocked with the exception of the M62. Motorways around London were also badly affected. The M2 in Kent was down to single lane traffic.

Much of Scotland experienced relatively mild weather as temperatures hovered around zero but in England the lowest recorded temperature was minus 12C at Gatwick airport and in Kent a 12in snowfall was recorded. Snow fell persistently in much of the south, with lighter showers in the north.

The AA had to deal with double the number of emergency calls and advised people to stock up with plenty of antifreeze and take blankets with them in case of breakdown.

Continued on page 20, col 5

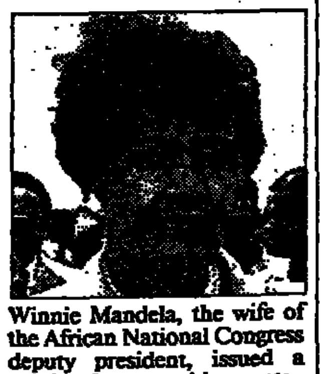
INSIDE

Rates hopes boost shares

City investors embarked on another massive spending spree in the stock market, convinced that a cut in bank base rates is on the way. The FT-SE 100 index surged 48.9 points, or 2.2 per cent, to 2,243.7 – its highest level since August and 600 million shares changed hands in active trading .... Page 21

Market report, page 27

Mandela threat



Winnie Mandela, the wife of the African National Congress deputy president, issued a chilling threat to whites to stay out of a black township where a dozen people have been killed and scores made homeless in deadly clashes since the weekend .... Page 11

Gatt plea

Leaders of more than 60 of the world's largest companies have appealed to governments to save the stalled Uruguay round of international talks from collapse and prevent a trade war .... Page 21

Olympic hope

The resignation of a rival seems to have cleared the way for London to bid for the 2000 Olympic Games under the leadership of Seb Coe Page 38

Iran plays safe on Gulf conflict

By Hazhir Teimourian in London and Martin Fletcher in Washington

IRAN is privately pressing the allies to prosecute the war against Iraq vigorously while in public pressing for a ceasefire.

The double track policy by the Iranian leadership has been confirmed by both Middle Eastern and European diplomats.

"The message we are getting from Tehran is 'don't pay any attention to what we say publicly, just clobber them. Don't agree to a ceasefire'," said one Western diplomat. The diplomatic revelations are the first confirmation that Tehran is adopting a carrot and stick policy toward Baghdad.

The Iranian leadership is now playing host to a series of special visitors. President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received the foreign minister of Turkey, Mr Kurtcebe Alptemucin, while the Soviet deputy forgin minister Mr Aleksander Belonogov held talks with Iranian foreign ministry officials. There were also reports that President Mitterrand of France had made direct contact with the leadership.

The diplomatic activity now centred on Tehran emanates from Mr Rafsanjani's announcement at a press conference on Monday that he was ready to meet Saddam Hussein and hold talks with the United States in order bring "the destruction of Iraq" to an end as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration has assured Iran that American troops fighting Iraq will be withdrawn from the region as soon as possible after the war.

Washington made the commitment in a message sent to Iran through the Swiss embassy, which represents U.S. interests in Tehran.The message also said that the United States had no intention of destroying Iraq, killing civilians or attacking religious sites. But the newspaper *Tehran Times* stressed that Iran cannot rely solely on Mr Bush's commitment and because of this Tehran is maintaining a neutral stance and continuing efforts to prevent what it called the expansionist ambitions of both the belligerent parties.

Iran denounced Iraq's invasion of Kuwait at the time but is also demanding the withdrawal of American and other Western forces from the Gulf.

President Rafsanjani last week sent peace proposals to the Iraqi leader that he said could serve as the basis for a settlement. But these appear to have had a frosty reception in the Iraqi capital.

ON OTHER PAGES

Analysis: bridge-bombing campaign 4
Fighting: search and destroy missions 5
Schools of uninformed thought 12
Letters: dealing with the casualties 13

Ulster talks near to breakdown

THE initiative by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, to create new political structures in the province appeared close to breakdown last night.

James Molyneaux, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley, his Democratic Unionist counterpart, emerged from a meeting with Mr Brooke to say there was "nothing left to talk about". They blamed the likely failure of the talks on the attitude of the Irish government under Charles Haughey.

The Northern Ireland Office would not accept the initiative had foundered, but did not disguise the difficulties.

Strong-arm tactics used to curb war reporting

From Christopher Walker
in Eastern Saudi Arabia

EARLIER this week an experienced news-agency photographer, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, spent more than six hours in the Saudi desert surrounded by six armed US marines who threatened to shoot him if he left his car. "We have orders from above to make this pool system work," one of the officers explained.

The action was taken because the photographer had tried to operate independently of a system under which Pentagon and defence ministry minders hope to control all media coverage of the Gulf war.

Angered by the behaviour of reporters determined to present their own, rather than the official version of the war, the military have redoubled their threats to seize the accreditation papers and visas of any newsmen failing to toe the line. Some US soldiers at road blocks throughout Saudi Arabia have been ordered to remove a wheel from journalists' cars until Saudi security men arrive to take them away.

In a more subtle attempt at intimidation, reporters from *The Times* and the *Daily Mirror* were told that it would be "unhelpful" to report comments by representative British soldiers who chose to use the opportunity of a visit by one of the press "pools" to speak out about the widespread anti-Islamic feeling inside an army which has had to abide by strict Muslim rules despite their frequent breach by the Saudis and Kuwaitis for whom they are fighting.

Whitehall also made a partially successful attempt to prevent newspapers and television reporting that the fears of Iraqi germ warfare are now so great that all British frontline troops are being given a crash series of jabs against pneumonic plague.

Although news of the immunisation had already been broken, the ministry's justification was that the stories would assist President Saddam Hussein. Many thought the real reason was to prevent the British public from knowing the nightmarish sort of conflict the Desert Rats are soon to face.

Even before the land war has begun and allied casualties have started to soar, it has become clear to reporters on the ground in Saudi Arabia that the fears about the operation of tight military censorship originally expressed by Burl Osborne, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors were well founded.

Many examples of interference have occurred well beyond the criteria of "operational security" which the great majority of the 700 Western reporters in Saudi Arabia would appily comply with. Reports have been deliberately delayed and despatches altered to reflect allied forces in a better light. An American reporter wrote that pilots were "giddy" upon return from F-117 Stealth fighter missions over Iraq. He later found that the adjective had been altered to "proud".

Another who reported that Marines had been ordered to add more sandbags to protective bunkers was told by the military public relations specialist (one accompanies all American "combat pools") that "asked" would be a better word.

Buoyed by a recent poll that showed overwhelming US public support for

Continued on page 20, col 6

INDEX

Arts 17-18
Births, marriages, deaths ... 15
Business 21-27
Classified 15,27,30-33
Court & social 14
Crosswords 15,20
Law Report 33
Leading articles 13
Letters 13
Motoring 32
Obituaries 14
Sport 34-38
TV & radio 19
Weather 20

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.

THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

A crude and lethal weapon to thwart the security forces

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE security service and Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch have feared an IRA mortar attack against a military or establishment target since 1988, when the latest mainland campaign began.

The mortars may be crude and home-made but they have become an effective weapon in the IRA's armoury. Only the armed wing of the Basque separatists is thought to have used a similar weapon and it may be no coincidence that IRA and Eta personnel trained and worked together in the early 1970s.

The mortars, built by IRA armourers and bomb-makers on either side of the border, were probably first developed as an effective way of bypassing the growing fortification of army and police posts in the early 1970s. As the security forces in Ulster developed more sophisticated defences, the IRA found a relatively simple way of pressing attacks from an unexpected quarter. Instead of having to drive or leave car bombs or other devices close to well-guarded posts, the IRA could operate at a safe distance from the cover of surrounding streets or countryside.

They have been used in 67 attacks in the past 16 years and 350 mortar bombs have been fired. Eleven Royal Ulster Constabulary officers and reservists and one soldier have been killed in assaults on RUC stations and military posts. Another 163 people have been hurt.

In the worst single attack, nine RUC officers and reservists were killed when six bombs hit the roof of temporary buildings inside the police complex at Newry. Many other stations in the province have been attacked over the years, prompting elaborate protection, including fencing, screens, netting and strengthened roofs.

There was no sign that the IRA would move on the mainland from traditional attacks until police stumbled on a bomb factory in a flat in Clapham, south London, a few days before Christmas 1988. Among explosives, bomb-making material and equipment, they discovered a special type of rubber ring to be used in the firing of mortars from a vehicle. The rings absorb the pressure of the firing and reduce damage to the mortar platform. Police were shaken, aware of the damage mortars could inflict.

Searches also uncovered coded paperwork that proved to have been written by Nicholas Mullen, jailed last year for 30 years as an IRA fixer. Mullen had drawn up weapon lists that included mortars and calculations for firing. The investigation unearthed what would have been the factory for making the mortars. Mullen, posing as a sheet-metal worker trying to set up his own business, had hired a workshop in Leytonstone, east London, in 1988.

With the factory exposed and Mullen in jail, the IRA's plans seemed to have foundered. Scotland Yard could only hope that tight police patrols in the most vulnerable areas of the capital would stop the attacks in time.

WORLD REACTION

Thatcher phones message of dismay

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A policeman on guard outside No 10 yesterday

MARGARET Thatcher said in Los Angeles yesterday that she had heard of the attack at 6.30am and had immediately telephoned Mr Major to express her horror.

Asked if she thought Downing Street was safe, the former prime minister said: "Terrorists can always make a surprise attack. There is no way in which you can protect against everything." Her first reaction had been to ask whether anyone had been injured.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, sent a telegram to Mr Major. He said that he had learnt of the attack "with horror and dismay", and was relieved to hear that no one had been seriously hurt. "This attempted assassination underlines again the necessity to fight with determination against terrorism and to strengthen our co-operation in this area."

Mr Major is due to meet the chancellor in Bonn on Monday, when they will discuss joint measures against terrorism.

The attack was condemned by politicians in the Irish Republic. Jim O'Keefe, justice spokesman for the main opposition Fine Gael party, called on the Irish police to provide Scotland Yard with any assistance possible in tracking down those responsible.

Dick Spring, leader of the Irish Labour party, said that such incidents amounted to attacks on democracy. "It is to be sincerely hoped that there is no Irish involvement," he said. "If that hope proves to be unfounded, no stone must be left unturned to bring the culprits to justice."

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Scapegoat fear for innocent parties

By ROBIN YOUNG

YESTERDAY'S attack highlighted the need to ensure that innocent people were not made scapegoats of security operations, the general secretary of Liberty, the National Council for Civil Liberties, said yesterday.

Andrew Puddephatt said: "It is at times like this that it is important not to panic into seeking scapegoats and starting witch-hunts, but to remember what it is we believe in and are trying to protect: the democratic process and a judicial system in which evidence is produced in court and is open to challenge. If we depart from that it is a victory for the terrorists, not for democracy."

Mr Puddephatt said that the judicial system had gone wrong in the past after IRA bombings. Its shortcomings were exposed at present in the handling of the cases of Iranian and Palestinians who had been arrested and threatened with deportation as a result of the Gulf war.

Jane Coker, the solicitor who represented Abbas Cheblak and Ali El Saleh, two Palestinians who were released from Pentonville prison on Wednesday night, said that the decision in their cases was no vindication of the system. "It was support that their friends were able to win from the press and public which secured their release, and not the Home Office advisory panel. We do not know, and never will know, what the panel said," Miss Coker said.

Those released had not received apologies or explanations, or any guarantee that they might not be re-arrested. There were still about 50 detainees in prison.

MARK ASPLAND

After the explosions: 11am in the normally thronged Parliament Square yesterday, and barely a passer-by to be seen

HOW IT WAS DONE

Too much sugar in recipe for death

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDNET

AN EXTRA pinch of sugar added "for luck" to the explosive charge that sent home-made mortar bombs hurtling over Whitehall towards Downing Street may have saved the lives of the war cabinet.

A tiny miscalculation by the IRA gang meant that the mortar flew over the roof of Number 10 rather than landing on the rear room where John Major and his war cabinet were meeting. The Mark Ten mortar, as the security services have called the weapon, has been in use for the past 15 years and was developed by the IRA as a cheap and effective way of hurling explosives over about 250 yards from the comparative security of a van.

The 3ft-long metal tubes from which the mortars are fired are cut from oxy-acetylene cylinders that have walls thick enough to withstand the explosive force of the missile. The cylinders are welded onto a steel girder to provide a solid base plate. A simple explosive device, including a common fertiliser and sugar, is rammed into the bottom of the aiming tube. That is ignited, possibly by a car sparkplug, and explodes with a force that the IRA hopes to have calculated accurately.

On top of the charge is a "mortar" made from fire extinguishers or oxygen cylinders. The mortar is packed with Semtex or about 40lb of explosives, known to the security services as "co-op sugar" and containing fertiliser, sugar and diesel oil. Too much of any one element in the bomb or the detonator can lead to a blowback that would kill the men trying to fire the mortars.

SINN FEIN RULING

Law lords uphold broadcasting ban on paramilitary groups

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE government's ban on live television and radio interviews with members of terrorist organisations, including the IRA and the Ulster Defence Association, was unanimously upheld by the House of Lords yesterday.

The ban, according to one law lord, Lord Bridge of Harwich, was not only reasonable, it was surprising that its restriction was "of such limited scope". Lord Bridge, a former chairman of the Security Commission, said: "There is no restriction at all on the matter which may be broadcast, only on the manner of its presentation. The viewer may see the terrorist's face and hear his words provided only that they are not spoken in his own voice."

Five law lords dismissed an appeal in which six broadcasting journalists and a press union employee had sought to challenge the legality of the ban imposed in October 1988 by Douglas Hurd, then the home secretary.

Lord Bridge said he found it impossible to say that the secretary of state "exceeded the limits of his discretion. In any civilised and law-abiding society the defeat of the terrorist is a public interest of the first importance."

Another law lord, Lord Templeman, added that the House could not conclude that the home secretary had abused or exceeded his powers. "The interference with freedom of expression is minimal and the reasons given by the home secretary are compelling."

Bridge: "Restriction is of such limited scope"

Campaigners said after the judgment that they would fight on and take the case to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Frances D'Souza, director of Article 19, the international centre on censorship, said: "We find this judgment shocking and a sad reflection of the low regard which this government seems to have for international human rights law. We will be taking this case forward to Europe where we expect it will have a very good chance of success."

Anthony Barnett, co-ordinator of Charter 88, said the ruling highlighted "the unaccountable and unacceptable power wielded by ministers of the crown in the British system of government".

The case was supported by the National Union of Journalists and Beta, the broadcasting union. The journalists had claimed the restriction was unlawful, perverse and represented an unjustifiable interference with freedom of speech.

Lord Bridge said, however, that in any civilised and law-abiding society the defeat of the terrorist was a public interest of the first importance that might justify some restriction on the freedom of terrorists and their supporters to spread their cause.

Although he understood criticisms of the ban, Lord Bridge said the complaints fell far short of showing that the home secretary had acted unreasonably in concluding that the ban was justified by the need to combat terrorism. "What is perhaps surprising is that the restriction imposed is of such limited scope."

Lord Bridge said the minister had decided it was necessary to deny to the terrorist and his supporters the opportunity to speak directly to the public through the most influential of all the media, and that justified some interference with editorial freedom.

Lord Templeman said the minister believed live appearances of terrorist members and supporters caused outrage and fear, gave a false impression of the strength and legitimacy of terrorism and thus encouraged this "foul crime". Mr Hurd had not abused or exceeded his powers in imposing the ban under the terms of the Broadcasting Act 1981.

"The broadcasting authorities and journalists are naturally resentful of any limitation on their right to present a programme in such a manner as they think fit," Lord Templeman said. "But the interference with freedom of expression is minimal and the reasons given by the home secretary are compelling."

Lord Roskill, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowry agreed in dismissing the appeal with costs.

The journalists who mounted the challenge were: Don Brind, a BBC producer, Fred Emery, a television journalist, Alexander Graham, an editor and producer, Victoria Leonard, a producer with LBC, Scarlett McGwire, a broadcaster and former National Union of Journalists president and broadcaster, and John Pilger, the newspaper and television journalist, with Thomas Nash, an employee of the NUJ.

BIRMINGHAM SIX

Scientific evidence dropped but appeal to be contested

THE Director of Public Prosecutions made clear yesterday that he intends to continue to contest the appeal by the Birmingham Six, even though he will no longer rely on the scientific evidence that formed a major plank of the case against them.

During a preliminary hearing at the Court of Appeal, Graham Boal, for the DPP, said he was keeping an open mind but that it was his intention that the appeal should continue in the normal way.

In a move expected by the six and those who have campaigned for their release, Mr Boal announced: "It is right that I should make clear that, while of course this will be a matter for the court to decide, the DPP will be submitting that the scientific evidence, in the light of work which has been done, can no longer form the basis for any argument that these convictions are safe and satisfactory."

Lawyers for the six challenged the Crown to say now whether it was still relying on evidence given by former Detective Superintendent George Reade, who led the enquiry into the bombings, and four other West Midlands detectives about alleged confessions by four of the six.

Michael Mansfield, QC, for five of the men, asked whether the Crown accepted that there was prima facie evidence to suggest that the credibility of those officers, "and possibly a great many more", could no longer be relied on. He called on the Crown to disclose to the defence, as a matter of urgency, records of interviews with the officers made during the enquiry by Devon and Cornwall police into the investigation of the case. Disclosure might reveal "the inevitable inference" that notes taken of interviews were not contemporaneous.

James Wood, for the sixth man, said he drew comfort from the Crown's announcement that it would not rely on the scientific evidence. The question remained of whether the Crown intended to present Mr Reade and other officers as credible witnesses when they had been "implicated in forgery and perjury" in relation to the confessions.

"If the Crown does propose to rely on them as witnesses of truth then it is essential that we have disclosure of the interviews with those officers now," Mr Wood said.

Mr Boal said that not all the details were in the DPP's possession. He could not say whether the Crown intended to rely on the officers' credibility at the full appeal hearing on February 25.

Earlier, he had told Lords Justices Lloyd, Mustill and Farquharson that the full hearing would entail reappraisal of the alleged confessions, the scientific evidence and what the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, described at the men's 1987 appeal as a "wealth of evidence as to the surrounding circumstances".

Mr Boal said that the case differed from that of the Guildford Four, in which the Crown's case rested on a single strand of evidence — alleged confessions.

The six, Richard McIlkenny, Patrick Hill, Billy Power, Johnny Walker, Gerry Hunter and Hugh Callaghan, were not at yesterday's hearing. All have been in custody since their arrest in November 1974 after the bombing of two public houses in Birmingham. Twenty-one people died and 162 were injured in what was the worst IRA atrocity on the mainland. The six received 21 life sentences in 1975 after being found guilty of murder.

Richard McIlkenny's brother, Paddy, said last night: "The DPP seems determined to drag it out to the bitter end, even though the points he is going to fight on are already torn to shreds."

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SATURDAY

Tales from the heart market

St Valentine's Day has nothing to do with St Valentine but it is bound up with hate and other ugliness. Sarah Jane Checkland finds proof in the art market that there is more than love to February 14

WEEKEND LIVING

Inappropriate, that's the word

Tina Brown explains to Alan Franks why the party of the year for the magazine of the decade has fallen victim, in wartime, to the rather un-American state of inappropriateness

SATURDAY REVIEW

Sex and the children

Richard Davenport-Hines argues that controversial changes to the Dutch laws on the age of consent serve to draw attention to muddled British attitudes

SATURDAY REVIEW

She can take it with her

Lady Baring ("basically I am a bag lady") never goes anywhere without lots of her "bumph". She talks about Hampshire weekending

WEEKEND LIVING

A special offer from Scotland

Readers have the chance to buy a 12-year-old malt specially bottled for *The Times*, plus some salmon to go with it

SATURDAY REVIEW

The Times on Saturday: hard news, fine writing, informed comment

IRA spy jailed by Dublin court

An IRA spy who concealed a listening device in police headquarters in Dublin and recorded secret communications was yesterday jailed for five years by the anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court.

Matthew O'Treasaigh, aged 27, was convicted of being a member of the IRA and of obtaining information on police operations in a manner prejudicial to the safety of the state. He was arrested when police raided a flat overlooking Irish police headquarters.

● Robert Russell, aged 33, who escaped from the Maze prison and was extradited from the republic two years ago, yesterday won his appeal against a 20-year sentence. It was his second appeal and he will be free in three weeks. Russell was sentenced in 1981 for attempting to murder an RUC officer.

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CAT No. FH500 Batch No. DL 4589
CAT No. FH500 Batch No. DL 4989

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1200/2400W
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MARC ASPLAND

After the attack: Police keep clear of the burning van used as a launch pad for the mortar bomb attack, left, and, right, tapes beneath a statue of Winston Churchill bar traffic from a snow-covered Whitehall

THE WITNESSES

‘You just get the hell out of it quickly’

By RAY CLANCY, QUENTIN COWDRY, MICHAEL HORSNELL AND PETER VICTOR

IT was the uncontrolled rattle of teacups in the defence ministry canteen that alerted Whitehall to the unthinkable. On the other side of the road, the war cabinet, normally shielded from external clamour, temporarily adjourned its business. The rude interruption of an IRA explosion led John Major to remark: “I think we had better start again somewhere else.” Evacuation began of nearby offices, and at Buckingham Palace the windows shook.

Within an hour, beyond the police tapes that stopped everything moving, one of the busiest roads in London looked like a scene from a Christmas card, its virgin snow strangely untrammelled by traffic. Only the footprints of forensic scientists could be seen from a vantage point in Trafalgar Square, and those carrying away cartons of debris for analysis.

As the fiction of a terrorist mortar bomb attack on the seat of government became reality, a crater about 4ft wide appeared in the back garden of No 10, together with enough work to bring a smile to the face of glaziers. The force of the blast, about 40ft from the back wall, scorched the rear of No 10. The windows of No 11 were damaged and debris from the three bombs rained down on surrounding streets.

A civil servant who was in the Cabinet room said: “There was a very loud bang, two plops, and a cold draught, a blast of cold air if you like. When it happens you are surprised. You look around and find nobody has been hurt and you just get the hell out of it quickly.”

The Cabinet Office windows were shattered, but they are specially treated and no glass entered the room where the foreign secretary, the chancellor, the defence secretary, the Attorney-general, the Treasury chief secretary, the chief of the defence staff and the prime minister were discussing with others the Gulf.

Less than a quarter of a mile away a white Ford Transit van, used as the launch pad for the most spectacular IRA attack since the 1984 Brighton hotel bombing, was left looking like an opened baked-bean can, according to one witness.

Several men working on the roof of Banqueting House in Whitehall were taking a coffee break when they heard the first explosion and assumed the scaffolding they had just erected had collapsed. Andy Strain, aged 32, a scaffolder from Bermondsey, south-east London, ran into the street with his workmates.

“We scrambled out and heard another tremendous bang,” he said. “There was an old-style Transit van with the back doors wide open and what looked like carpet hanging out. The roof had been blown out. It was sticking up like an open baked-bean can. It looked as if they had blown it up, there was black smoke everywhere.”

Lars Lindstrom, from Matfors, in Sweden, was staying in the Royal Horse Guards Hotel and ran out into Whitehall on hearing the explosion. “The van was on fire. I saw flames and smoke and then there was a couple of small explosions inside the van.

“The back doors of the van had been thrown open together with the left side door. I saw what looked to be clothes, red and yellow, hanging out of the back. The police were running away from the van; well, they were walking very quickly.”

A 50-year-old civil servant, who did not wish to be named, said that he had been in a building nearby. “These two objects, what looked to me, like Roman candles were on a patch of grass in Horse Guards Parade, between the end of Downing Street and the corner of the Foreign Office, giving off flames and smoke. The flames were about 4ft high, with black and brown smoke.”

A policeman at the scene remarked that the devices had been too “bloody accurate” for comfort.

The moment the mortar fired, just after 10am, was witnessed by Herb Greer, a freelance journalist aged 60, from Manchester. “The first explosion was quite small, but that was immediately followed by a much bigger one,” he said. “Flames shot out of the van’s roof and from the driver’s side. All I could see was flames, but two workmen who were crouching down for cover on the pavement said they saw rockets going towards Downing Street.”

The detonation of the first bomb was felt by David Parnham, aged 37, an electrician of Chingford, Essex, as he drove down Horse Guards Road. “The car rocked with the force of the explosion. My first thought was that something was badly wrong with the car, but the next second I saw two cannisters coming over the wall at the back of Downing Street. But they didn’t seem to explode — they just gave off a kind of sulphurous smoke,” he said.

“I can’t believe this has happened. It is just like a novel,” said Jayne Taylor, aged 20, who was walking through Parliament Square when the mortars were fired. “I heard three bangs, sort of whooshes really, then there was a much louder explosion. People started running along Whitehall. I followed them. There was a van on fire. Flames were shooting out through the roof and back doors about 20ft into the air.”

David Parnham, aged 37, an electrician, said: “I saw something flying through the air; it was a cylinder going towards No 10. There was a loud explosion and debris was coming down. Two other pieces, about 4ft long, landed on the grass nearby. They didn’t seem to explode but rather burst into flames. They just missed another car. The driver was very shocked. He got out and just ran.”

Pravin Patel, 41, was driving his number 24 bus, with about 40 passengers, along Whitehall. “There was a big bang. I stopped. I saw a man running away. A missile came out of the roof of the Ford transit van. Then after five seconds I saw another one in the same manner and I saw a big fire going out as well.”

Mr Patel added: “We could feel it in the bus.”

The Welsh secretary, David Hunt, was a prisoner in his Whitehall office for a time, unable to attend the full Cabinet meeting called afterwards.

Visitors hear the blasts

A GROUP of Hong Kong legislators were in an ante-room at the Foreign Office about to discuss the colony’s future with Lord Caithness, when the bombs exploded (Michael Knipe writes). “We heard a loud bang outide and instinctively moved away from the french windows,” said Maria Tam, a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council. At first they thought it was thunder then realised it was a bomb and retreated from the room to the corridor. “There were several further bangs, or echoes of explosions,” Miss Tam said, adding that people had remained very calm.

Explosion heard by Queen

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE QUEEN referred to the Downing Street attack when she opened a new wing of the Royal Brompton national heart and lung hospitals in Chelsea, west London, yesterday afternoon. She said she had been holding an audience at Buckingham Palace, nearly a mile away, when the blast occurred, and she and her staff had heard it clearly.

The Queen said told staff in a speech: “This occasion takes place against an international background of conflict in which our country and its forces are playing their full part. This morning, we have had a reminder at home that there are those who seek to undermine our democratic system and way of life.

“I would like to take this opportunity to remind them that they will not succeed.”

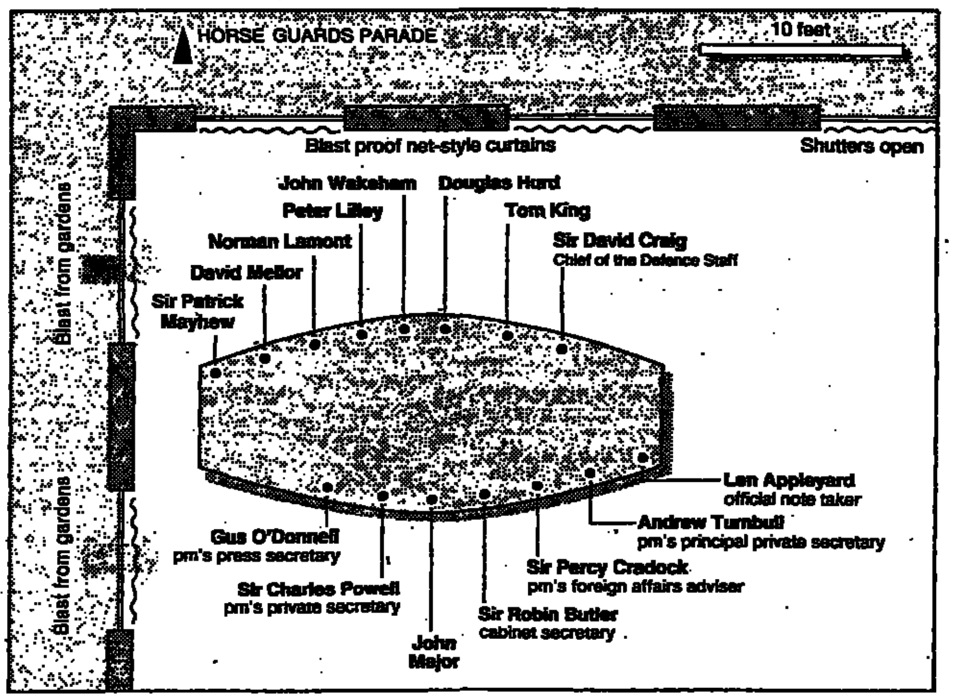
On the Gulf war, the Queen said: “All of us will be praying in the days and weeks ahead that those serving in the Gulf may do their duty to the maximum effect and with the minimum casualties.

“Their families can at least be reassured that, for those who do suffer, the treatment and facilities standing by at this and other hospitals are of the very best.”

IN THE CABINET ROOM

Quick return to agenda after surprise item

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



THE WAR cabinet’s discussion on sharing the costs of the Gulf conflict had been under way for just eight minutes yesterday when a loud explosion interrupted its deliberations and reminded members of a longer conflict much nearer home.

David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, was reporting to ministers and officials on his vist to the United Arab Emirates and the prospects of sharing war costs when the calm was broken by a bang followed by two plops.

It was 10.08 in the cabinet room. Tea and biscuits were about to be delivered to 15 people sitting at the coffin-shaped cabinet table, and a mortar had landed in the garden at the rear of 10 Downing Street, less than 50 feet from where John Major, the prime minister, was chairing the meeting.

The explosion shattered the specially protected windows of the cabinet room and buckled their frames. Security net curtains were in place as a precaution against flying glass.

As a blast of cold air blew through the room, Mr Mellor turned to the imposing figure of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-general, and remarked: “Thank God we had a big man like you sitting at the end of table”.

Later, an official who had been in the cabinet room said: “There was a loud explosion outside. The windows shattered. I didn’t see a flash. No one was really looking. There was a loud bang, two plops and then this blast of cold air.”

Douglas Hurd and Tom King, both former Northern Ireland secretaries, realised immediately what had happened, and, according to Downing Street sources, Mr Major displayed commendable sang-froid, looking at his colleagues and saying: “I think we had better start again somewhere else”.

Mr Major and his colleagues were leaving the room before Downing Street security men arrived. Fifteen minutes later, the war cabinet reassembled in a secret secure room nearby.

No one went towards the windows to see what had happened. Drawing on his Northern Ireland experience, Mr King told his colleagues that it was standard security procedure to leave quickly, in case of further devices.

An official who had attended the meeting said that those present had said little in the immediate aftermath of the explosion. “You look around, you realise no one is hurt — that is your immediate reaction — and then you just get the hell out of it quickly,” the official said. He added: “The thought that there could be a bomb there [in the garden] is just amazing.”

Although No 10 apparently escaped the worst of the blast, all the windows at the rear of 11 Downing Street were blown in, and offices at No 12 were badly damaged.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, has been made temporarily homeless by the attack. He had planned to move into No 11 yesterday, and he and his wife spent last night with friends. Their clothes and packing cases in the chancellor’s residence were covered with broken glass.

Richard Ryder, the chief whip, had a lucky escape. He was at a meeting in the Cabinet Office in Whitehall when the blast badly damaged his office at 12 Downing Street. He returned to find its wooden panelling peppered with shrapnel, and its windows blown in.

The adjoining office of Murdo Maclean, his private secretary, which was also empty at the time, was damaged by the blast. Trees in the garden at Downing Street caught fire in the explosion and were badly charred.

As officials assessed the damage, the war cabinet resumed and received an update on military operations in the Gulf. Members were joined by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, who gave an initial report on the mortar attack.

At the war cabinet, in addition to Mr Major, Mr Mellor, Sir Patrick, Mr Hurd, and Mr King, were: Mr Lamont; Peter Lilley, the trade secretary; John Wakeham, the energy secretary; Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Sir David Craig, chief of the defence staff; Gus O’Donnell, prime minister’s press secretary; Sir Charles Powell, prime minister’s private secretary; Sir Robin Butler, cabinet secretary; Sir Percy Cradock, foreign affairs adviser to the prime minister; Andrew Turnbull, principal private secretary to the prime minister; and Len Appleyard, an official taking notes.

THE GESTURE’S IMPORTANCE

Defiance replaced by anger and embarrassment

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WHILE politicians and security experts united to condemn the IRA strike against the cabinet, many were shocked that it had been possible to launch such a near-disastrous attack in the heart of Britain’s political establishment.

As police officers continued last night to scour the area around Downing Street for forensic evidence, in Westminster feelings of embarrassment and anger began to replace the earlier, studied mood of defiance. Few MPs were willing publicly to endorse the prime minister’s claim that the bombing could not possibly have succeeded. Security sources voiced grudging admiration for the precision with which the IRA’s first mortar attack on mainland Britain had been delivered. They believe the spot at which the mortars were fired had been worked out almost to the last inch, possibly conducted by IRA men posing as Irish labourers. Although two of the bombs overshot their target by about 100 yards, one came within 40ft of hitting it.

Kevin McNamara, shadow Northern Ireland secretary, said: “People have to be concerned that at a time of such heightened security and tension, terrorists have been able to drive into Whitehall and fire mortar bombs at the prime minister’s London home.” He believes all public parking in the Whitehall and Westminster areas should be banned and that more uniformed policemen should be deployed in the vicinity.

Disquiet about the apparent ease with which the attack was carried out was also expressed on the Conservative back benches. Ivor Stanbrook, Tory MP for Orpington and chairman of the party’s backbench Northern Ireland committee, said: “This can hardly be described as a bungled attack. We have constantly underestimated the power of the IRA to strike at targets in central London. The government simply must put a lot more effort and resources into countering terrorism.” Professor Paul Wilkinson, an expert on terrorism, said the bombing highlighted the IRA’s ability to deliver blows that were psychologically and physically damaging. “Attacking 10 Downing Street has obviously great propaganda value; but the physical threat has also been shown to be very real.”

He said that since the base of a mortar was found in a “bomb factory” in Clapham, south London, in 1988, intelligence agencies had feared that the IRA was preparing to launch mortar bombs.

Security certainly had to be enhanced but the response needed to be carefully judged. The most urgent need was for better intelligence on the IRA’s mainland operations.

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Bridge bombing campaign hits squeaky-clean PR image

The war is only three weeks old yet images of cruise missiles flying over Baghdad and Iraq's ruined roads may outlive all others, Michael Evans writes

WARS are associated with vivid images: the young Vietnamese girl running naked from napalm bombing, the barren hills of Korea, the exploding fire on HMS Antelope, the Royal Navy frigate attacked by Argentine Mirages and Skyhawks at San Carlos, or the Soviet helicopter gunships in Afghanistan.

The war with Iraq is only three weeks old, but already there are two images which could outlive the more personal photographs of human suffering which will inevitably emerge once the ground war begins. They are the sight of American Tomahawk cruise missiles flying over Baghdad, and Iraq's severed bridges.

The allied campaign to disrupt Iraq's main lines of communication has begun to generate passionate opposition, not just from King Husain of Jordan, who believes that Washington wants to destroy his Arab neighbour, but also from other critics who see the bombing of the bridges over the Tigris and Euphrates rivers as a sign that America is trying to damage the Iraqi economic infrastructure. To them, no doubt, the promise by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, to rebuild Iraq (including, presumably, the bridges) when the war is over may have sounded hollow.

The trouble for allied public relations is that the bridges are being destroyed when Iraq is barely retaliating. Iraqi aircraft have made no attempts to cut allied lines of communication. No Saudi bridges are down. The only craters in the roads to the Kuwaiti border have been caused by the weight of military convoys. None of the fuel supply points, ammunition stocks and command bunkers has been "visited" by Iraqi bombers.

This may be tempting fate. But it has to be said that for the moment the war is one-sided. This is why the image of the broken bridges, particularly the Jumhouriya bridge over the Tigris, photographed with a cluster of Iraqis stranded at the northern end, will have a lasting effect on the perception of the war.

Is this part of the air campaign justified? Independent military experts, speculating before the outbreak of war about the likely allied strategy, spoke of the need to attack the main air bases in southern Iraq which posed the greatest threat to allied forces in Saudi Arabia. But there was no mention of bridges or power stations. There was clearly little grasp then of the extent of the bombing which was soon to be launched against targets in every part of Iraq, from Basra and Fao in the south to Mosul in the north.

But now that the war is three weeks old, the military justification for hitting these targets is easier to explain. Iraq has the fourth largest army in the world, dwarfing Britain's and pushing even the US Army of 760,000 into seventh place behind Vietnam. Most of President Saddam Hussein's professional and conscript soldiers are deployed in Kuwait and southern Iraq, about 600,000 men. With that many men dug in, it was bound to be difficult to dislodge them. But they have long lines of communication, all the way back to Baghdad and beyond.

No military commander would be so irresponsible as to send his forces to attack such a huge army from the front unless he had attempted first to cut off the enemy's supply lines in the rear. The main bridges across the Tigris and Euphrates represent the arteries of Saddam's war machine. Every bridge that remains standing means that supply convoys may get through to the troops in Kuwait, contributing almost inevitably to allied casualties when the ground campaign begins. Going for the bridges, instead of trying to hit individual supply lorries, makes far better military sense. But there is also a greater risk of civilian casualties. Watching a video taken by an RAF Buccaneer of a recent strike on a bridge, in which bombs launched by a Tornado GR1 appear to pass through a commercial vehicle to hit the target, is an unnerving experience. The video has not been released for public viewing. A video of the Nasser bridge destroyed on Tuesday in the Iraqi town of Nasiriyah, 250 miles south of Baghdad, would have been more upsetting if it is true, as Iraq claims, that it was thronged by pedestrians and motor vehicles at the time of the attack.

When the ground war begins, the image of the ruined bridges and the implied loss of civilian life will merge into other images which are likely to have a different effect on the public. If Saddam resorts to chemical and biological weapons, for example, the memory of those Iraqi citizens stranded at one end of the bridge in Baghdad will be forgotten.

By most accounts, the Iraqi leader is beyond thinking rationally. But even the most blinkered of his advisers should see sense in the argument that if Iraq is facing military defeat, it would be foolish to lose all hope of political victory by turning to the weapon systems which are guaranteed to change the image of the war, including, perhaps, in the Arab world. Gas victims provided the most memorable image of the Iran-Iraq war. However, who is brave enough among the Iraqi president's small circle of advisers to tell him that he is facing defeat?

BATTLE TACTICS

British chief promises Iraqi troops heavier bombardment

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE British commander-in-chief in the Gulf gave a warning to Iraqi forces in Kuwait yesterday that the bombing they had suffered so far was "minor to what is coming . . . in terms of intensity".

Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière also gave his personal opinion that a ground war was inevitable. Yesterday Baghdad radio broadcast that Iraq was impatient for the land battle to begin.

Sir Peter's conviction was not shared by United States commanders. Marine Brigadier-General Richard Neal, a US military spokesman speaking in Riyadh, did not agree that a land battle was inevitable. But he denied there was any disagreement between Sir Peter and General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander. The two men met twice a day and had developed an "amazing rapport and chemistry".

"There's no division between the two of them, " General Neal said. Sir Peter said the allies were moving into a new air phase of the war "which is going to be to reduce the ability and will of Iraqi ground forces to fight."

Allied air attacks would concentrate on forward troop areas. "The whole of the Iraqi army in Kuwait and immediately behind Kuwait is going to get our full attention," Sir Peter said. The drive to evict Iraq from Kuwait "looks like taking place on the ground in the not too distant future."

Sir Peter stressed that, in spite of the air attacks, there was no indication at the moment that the Iraqi army was going to crack in the immediate future.

However, Pierre Joxe, the new French defence minister who has just visited French troops in the Gulf, claimed thousands of Iraq's elite Republican Guard soldiers had been killed in bombing raids. These figures were not confirmed by the British or American spokesmen.

Saudi troops fired at 14 Iraqi soldiers who tried to cross into Saudi Arabia on Wednesday night, a Saudi military spokesman said.One Iraqi was captured, the others fled back across the border and there were no Saudi casualties, Colonel Ahmad al-Robayan said in Riyadh.

Seven Iraqis also surrendered to Egyptian troops on the northern frontier overnight. The desertions brought the total number of Iraqi prisoners-of-war to at least 893.

There were two other minor ground skirmishes when Iraqis spotted close to the border were fired on with mortars.

As the American battleship, USS Wisconsin, fired its 16 inch guns for the first time since the Korean war, three days after its sister ship, USS Missouri, began firing shells on Iraqi positions, it was announced that more Iraqi aircraft had flown to Iran. The total was now 134, of which 109 were fighters, the rest transport aircraft.

It was also confirmed that four Iraqi aircraft, two Su25s and two MiG21s, had been shot down by US pilots on Wednesday. Yesterday two US F15Cs engaged three Iraqi Su22s, apparently fleeing to Iran, and "confirmed two kills and one probable hit".

Two Iraqi helicopters, a Mi8 and a French-made Alouette, were shot down by a US Navy F14 and a US Air Force A10, respectively. A third was shot down in northern Iraq.

General Neal said allied aircraft had shot down at least 33 Iraqi planes in aerial combat and three helicopters since the Gulf war broke out on January 17.

In further action yesterday, two Iraqi patrol boats were destroyed. One of them, hit by a US A6 close to Khor Zubair creek, was a TNC45. The other was unidentified.

An American FA18, returning from a bombing mission, lost contact on its way back to one of the six American carriers in the northern Arabian Gulf and a search was underway last night for the missing pilot.

The United States Army also lost a helicopter in a "non-battle" incident which took place over Saudi Arabian territory. One crew member was killed and the four others were injured.

WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 22

ALLIED FORCES

SORTIES: 52,000 allied air missions have been flown since the war began.

LOSSES: A US Navy FA-18 Hornet jet was missing over the northern Arabian Gulf on its way back to its carrier base after a mission over Iraq. There were no indications it had been hit by anti-aircraft fire. Thirty allied troops have been killed in action, including 12 Americans and 18 Saudis. Twenty-two Americans are listed as non-combat deaths. Further 105 American non-combat deaths in Operation Desert Shield before the war. Allies have listed 43 missing in action, including 25 Americans, eight British and one Italian and 12 prisoners of war, including two British. Allies have lost 27 planes, 21 in combat – 14 American, five British, one Kuwaiti and one Italian.

CLAIMS: Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere, commander of British forces in the Gulf, said: "We are in a transition period between the air war and the land war. I believe the land war is inevitable." More than three weeks of round-the-clock bombing of Iraqi forces was "minor to what is coming...in terms of intensity." The US said allied pilots shot down two Iraqi planes headed for Iran yesterday and a third was believed downed. Number of Iraqi planes flown to Iran total 134. At least 33 Iraqi planes in aerial combat and three helicopters since the war began.

More RAF Tornado GR1 fighter-bombers with a new laser targeting system have arrived. The Royal Navy said that of the 22 Iraqi vessels destroyed since the war began, the navy could claim six – three Exocet-armed patrol boats, two minesweepers and two other ships. The US battleship Wisconsin fired its big guns in action, adding to the allied bombardment of Iraqi positions in Kuwait. Saudi troops fired at 14 Iraqi soldiers who tried to cross into Saudi Arabia on Wednesday night. One was captured, the others fled and there were no Saudi casualties. Seven Iraqis surrendered to Egyptian troops on the northern frontier overnight. The desertions bring the total number of Iraqi enemy prisoners of war to at least 893.

IRAQI FORCES

CLAIMS: Iraq said it was "waiting impatiently for its decisive battle against all the infidel forces". Baghdad Radio said that by sending Richard Cheney and General Powell to the Gulf, President Bush was seeking "to speed up" the ground attack against Iraq. It added:"All news reports confirm that the number of Americans killed will exceed tens of thousands if a ground battle occurs." Iraq issued a new call for Arab and Moslem militants to attack US and Western interests, saying there was no place for neutrality in the war.

IRANIAN CLAIMS:
Iran said six Iraqi planes entered its airspace on Wednesday and Thursday but only one landed undamaged.

ALLIED WAR AIMS

UN Security Council resolution 678 authorises Kuwait's allies to "use all necessary means" to uphold previous resolutions calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government.

Resolution 678 also calls on the nations assisting Kuwait "to restore international peace and security in the area".

Torchlight vigil: peace campaigners protesting outside RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, from where American B52 bombers are being deployed against targets in Iraq and Kuwait. The long-range aircraft, veterans of Vietnam, began arriving this week

PoWs

Iraq guilty 'of gross violations'

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday accused Iraq of a gross and flagrant violation of its obligations under the Geneva convention in its treatment of allied prisoners.

His strongest condemnation of Iraqi behaviour was made shortly before his talks with Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the international committee of the Red Cross. Mr Major was planning to ask for full details of the Red Cross's abortive attempts to persuade the Iraqis to let them have access to allied prisoners.

In the Commons, a Tory MP suggested that the Red Cross should remind President Saddam Hussein that the Iraqis could not expect to benefit from their services while they refused to honour their obligations under the Geneva convention. Mr Major said he would make that point.

Also in the Commons, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, defended his deportation of some people of Arab origin."Where matters of national security are concerned, it is better to be safe than sorry," he said.

Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Falkirk West, said the Gulf war was about the defence of human rights, but there was a distinct danger that the British government would deprive innocent people of their human rights. Mr Baker said Saddam had made general threats of terrorism. When he received advice, he had to act on it. He did not believe in general internment.

RECONSTRUCTION

Postwar aid will depend on fall of Saddam, Baker says

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, yesterday proposed the creation of a Middle East bank to assist the region's reconstruction and development once the Gulf war is over. At the same time he indicated that President Saddam Hussein would have to be removed from power if Iraq were to receive any substantial benefit.

Recalling the role of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Europe's reconstruction after the second world war, and the setting up more recently of regional development banks for Eastern Europe and other developing areas, Mr Baker said that efforts to secure long-term peace in the Middle East "warrant the same spirit of multilateral commitment to reconstruction and development".

But, he said, "there is no suggestion on our part that the rebuilding and reconstruction of Iraq could proceed, if the current leadership of Iraq remained in power, to the same degree or extent that it would otherwise".

Giving evidence to the Senate foreign relations committee, Mr Baker suggested that funding for the bank should come primarily from the Middle East's oil-rich states, whose wealth has been a source of tension in poorer Arab nations. The West, however, would also have to contribute.

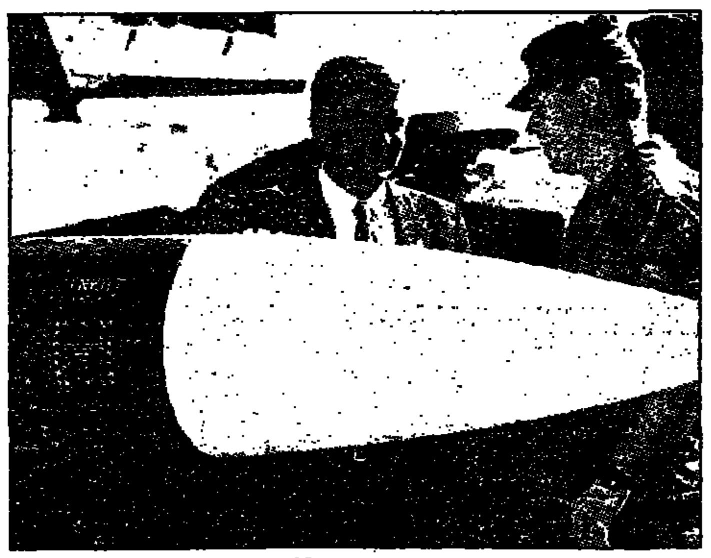
Mr Baker again emphasised that the desire for revenge should be suppressed and that Iraq should, if possible, be included in any reconstruction programme. "The secure and prosperous future that everyone hopes to see in the Gulf has to include Iraq," he added.

Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, and General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, left last night for their war-strategy meeting with American commanders in Saudi Arabia amid conflicting and confusing signals from the Bush administration about the imminence of an allied ground offensive.

President Bush told an audience in New York on Wednesday night that an end to the war was "not going to take that long", indicating that a ground offensive was close. Senior congressmen briefed in private by Mr Cheney and General Powell said they had gained the strong impression that the air offensive would continue for some time. "I feel real good. There is no rush to do it," said Robert Michel, the House Republican leader.

Appearing before the House armed services committee yesterday, Mr Cheney commented: "Our hope is that we can wrap it up as soon as possible to minimise the loss of life on all sides."

As the fourth week of war began, the allied bombardment of the Republican Guard and other Iraqi military targets in Kuwait and Baghdad continued yesterday, with US military spokesmen claiming that four more Iraqi jets had been destroyed in combat, but admitting that a US navy F18 and an army helicopter had been lost in accidents.



Patriotic duty: Vice-President Dan Quayle talks to officers at Fort Bliss in Texas, a Patriot missile training base

Deaths in Kuwait put at over 7,000

More than 7,000 citizens have died in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait since the country was invaded on August 2, according to a report based on eye-witness testimonies by health workers (Elaine Fogg writes).

The number of detainees held in camps and subjected to torture both in Kuwait and Iraq, is estimated at 17,000. The figures are based on information collected by doctors previously inside Kuwait, eye-witness accounts of the number of bodies seen in the city ice rink now used as a mortuary, and reports from gravediggers and relatives of the deceased.

The report, collated by Physicians for Human Rights in the US and Denmark, incorporates three accounts of premature babies being removed from incubators in hospitals inside Kuwait and left to die.

Amnesty International has estimated that around 300 terminally ill, physically and mentally handicapped patients, have been thrown out of institutions. From a population of two million plus, it is thought that only 350,000 Kuwaitis and 300,000 non-Kuwaitis, remain in the country.

Recent reports out of Kuwait indicate that conditions are deteriorating rapidly for the population and for Iraqi troops.

US civilian shot

Adana, Turkey – An American civilian was shot dead in the first killing here linked to the Gulf war. Bobbie Mozelle, aged 44, was employed as a customs specialist at the Incirlik air base, which is being used for bombing raids on Iraq. An underground left-wing organization, Dev Sol, claimed responsibility.

Troops welcomed

Sidon – Rosewater was showered on about 1,500 Lebanese soldiers as they moved into recently abandoned Palestinian guerrilla positions facing Israeli lines yesterday, bringing hope that their presence would encourage stability in southern Lebanon. The troops took control of the region for the first time in 16 years.

Gandhi's plea

Delhi – Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian prime minister, yesterday called for an end to the bombardment of Iraq and the replacement of the multinational force by United Nations forces. His call comes at a time when the Indian government is being criticised for leaning too strongly towards the United States over the Gulf.

Syrian expectation

Syria will expect the Western allies to resolve the Arab-Israel problem when the Gulf war is over, Farouq al-Shara, the Syrian foreign minister, said yesterday at the end of a two-day visit to London, after the first visit to London by a Syrian minister since diplomatic relations were resumed.

Iranian role, page 1

Bush launches crusade to counter church doubts

From CHARLES BREMNER
IN NEW YORK

IN HIS psychological war with President Saddam Hussein, President Bush lost important allies on the home front before the fighting even began – the leaders of the mainstream churches. Senior Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Methodists, and leaders of many other denominations, have broken with precedent and opposed a president's decision to go to war from the outset, providing a powerful moral core for the peace movement.

Worried about the dissenting churchmen, many of them activists from the Vietnam era, the White House has opened a counter-offensive, invoking Ecclesiastes, St Augustine and other ancient authorities. "The war in the Gulf is not a Christian war or a Muslim war, it is a just war," an impassioned Mr Bush told religious broadcasters. In his State of the Union address, Mr Bush said: "Our cause is just; our cause is moral; our cause is right." He was seeking to counter arguments being voiced from the pulpits of thousands of churches across America.

For example, in Croton-on-Hudson, a prosperous town in New York's commuter belt, the Rev Linda Kimmelman asked her Methodist parishioners to pray for the troops in the Gulf but went on: "Why are we at war? Because human greed, lust for power and national self-interest are alive and well. Ask yourself, if the primary export of Kuwait were broccoli and not oil, would we be in this war?"

For the moment, it is clear from polls that tens of millions of worshippers in this church-going country do not share the anti-war views of their clergy. Strong support for the morality of the conflict is coming from Jewish clergy. "I was part of the peace movement in the Vietnam war," said Rabbi Philip Kranz of Atlanta. "But I think this is different. I think that (Saddam) needs to be rooted out. I think his evil designs have to be checked." Many of the smaller, conservative churches of the South support the president, as do the television preachers and, in particular, Billy Graham, the veteran evangelist, who prayed with him in the White House on the night of the opening offensive.

The president is pained by the attitude of his own Episcopal church and other members of the National Council of Churches, which told him that "this sacrifice is out of proportion to any conceivable gain which might be achieved through military action". The Most Rev Edmond Browning, head of the Episcopal Church of the United States, says the war fails to meet any of the criteria in Christian doctrine for a just war. "The more I see about war and how war is conducted, the less I believe it is possible for there to be a just war." According to church sources, Mr Bush asked the bishop to explain to him the morality of doing nothing. "Where were the churches when Hitler overran Poland?" he was reported to have asked.

Only one Catholic bishop, Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston, has supported Mr Bush. Most of the others oppose the war, including Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, president of the Bishops' Conference. Offensive force violated "the principles of last resort and proportionality", he said. Pax Christi, the biggest Catholic peace organisation, has gone further, blaming the president for failing to pursue negotiations.

Critics of the churches' pacifism argue that they are taking no account of the political realities of the world. "The National Council of Churches was immeasurably more concerned about the possibility of the use of US military force in the Persian Gulf than it was about resisting the aggression of Saddam Hussein," said George Weigel, the president of the Ethics and Public Policy Centre.

IRAQ

Battered town is made symbol of civilian suffering

On a visit to the Iraqi provincial capital of Nasiriyah, **Richard Beeston** inspects civilian damage and reports on an upsurge of anti-Western feeling

FROM the air on Wednesday afternoon the small convoy of vehicles moving slowly along an exposed section of road just north of the Iraqi town of Nasiriyah must have presented a tempting target.

In accordance with the new search-and-destroy mission carried out over Iraq and Kuwait by allied warplanes, the pilot fired two bursts of cannon fire which peppered the road, gouging small holes in the tarmac and disabling a dozen vehicles, both military and civilian.

By the time our car reached the scene minutes later, soldiers could be seen fleeing for the safety of the roadside from a civilian bus which had been daubed with mud in an unsuccessful attempt to camouflage it.

Unfortunately for one Iraqi family, however, sandwiched between an army lorry and the busload of soldiers, the aircraft also scored direct hits on their small white Toyota. Ahmed Qassem, aged 10, was fatally wounded in the head. His sister, Sousen, aged 12, escaped with no more than a flesh wound in her left arm.

The air raid provided a fitting introduction to this southern town of a million people about a hundred miles north of Basra, where the frequency of the air attacks and the damage to roads, bridges and communication lines makes the nightly raid on Baghdad seem insignificant by comparison.

For the Iraqi authorities the town has also become a symbol of the allied destruction of civilian property. This is as a result of an air raid on Monday afternoon when, hospital officials said, 47 people died and more than 163 were injured when the Nasser bridge over the Euphrates, which divides the town, was destroyed by three direct hits.

Majid Touma, aged 30, a soldier on leave who lost half of his right leg in the raid, recalled that he had just begun to cross the bridge when the first missile struck at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Previous, night-time raids had already destroyed the main motorway bridge and a pedestrian pontoon crossing. Although the Nasser bridge was hit and closed to vehicles, it had become the main crossing point for the city's pedestrians.

"There must have been about 300 people walking across at the time," Mr Touma said. "I saw many injured and dead fall into the water and then I lay in shock from my injury."

Although the few hundred civilian deaths in Iraq have been proportionately small compared with the thousands of tons of ordnance that has been dropped on the country during the three weeks since the war began, the recent targeting of bridges and roads is beginning to take its toll because civilians must perforce use many of the same routes as the military.

In Baghdad on Wednesday night there was a further example of the difficulty the allied forces are having in precision-bombing military targets. Three rockets missed the Adhamiya bridge over the Tigris and destroyed five homes. Six people are reported to have been killed and another 15 were injured. Never slow to capitalise on the propaganda value of such air attacks, the Iraqi leadership has been quick to expose what it describes as allied "war crimes".

In Nasiriyah, the provincial capital of Dhiqar province, the governor, Taher Yassin Hussein, told Western reporters on Wednesday night that the average of 20 attacks a day on the town made a travesty of President Bush's undertaking that allied forces would spare civilian life.

Stopping a stretcher with an injured Bedouin girl lying in pain and then holding up her wounded arm to correspondents as proof of his words, the grey-haired governor said: "This is one of the criminal acts committed by Bush. "We have heard about the crimes against Vietnam and the Palestinians, but this is bigger. Even unfeeling animals would have to take pity on this sight," he declared.

The well-rehearsed rhetoric, accompanied by frequently dubious contradictory stories and inflated casualty figures, was no more than was to be expected.

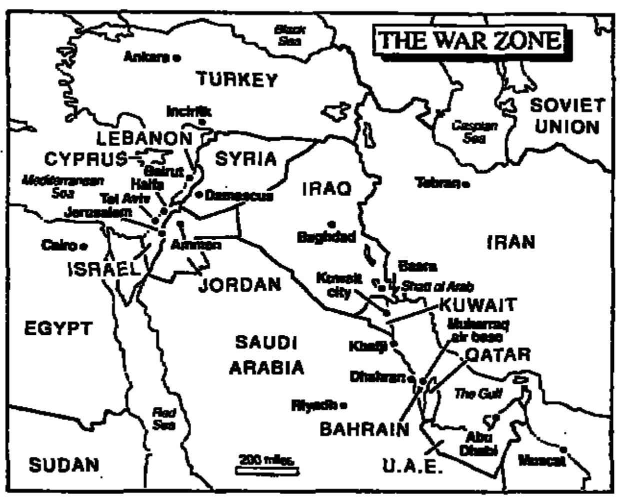
According to the Pentagon, the southern region of Iraq, particularly the area further south in Basra, has been the target of the most sustained allied bombardment since the start of the war, a move intended to hit positions of the elite Republican Guard and make the roads through the maze of waterways, canals and rivers impassable.

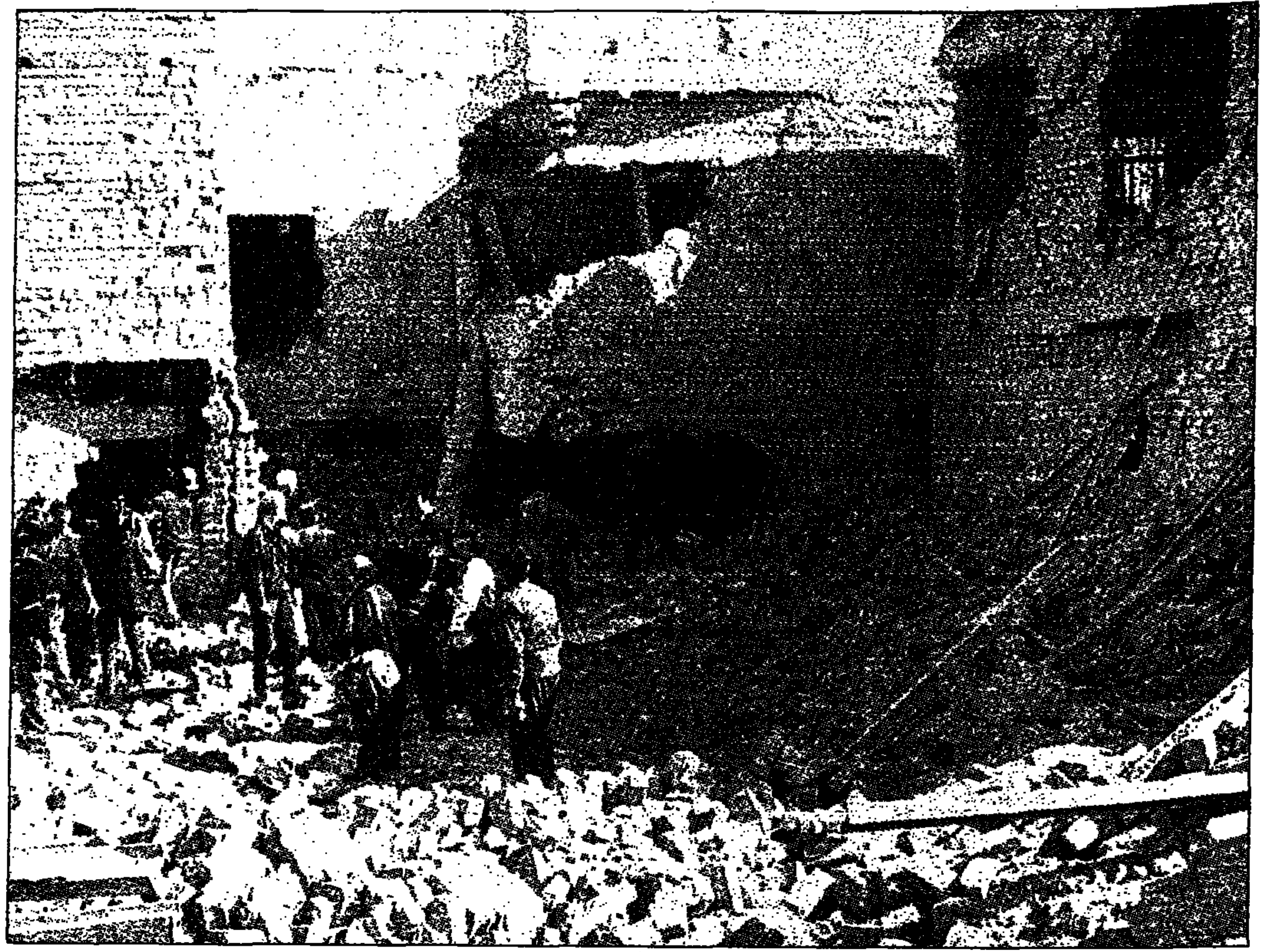
But the side-effects, in the form of damage to civilian property and casualties among non-combatants, are beginning to alienate even people who counted themselves pro-Western before the war began.

Hassan Abdul Reza, an army orderly who has been working in the military hospital in Basra, said that 20 to 25 civilians were dying every day because of allied hits on the southern capital which, judging by the stream of coffins draped in Iraqi flags heading north on the motorway on Wednesday, were also causing military casualties.

"I used to like the West, I even taught myself English," the young man said, unprompted by Iraqi officials. "But now all these ideals have been shattered by this bombardment. We feel now that, if we are defeated, it will be our end."

(This report was subject to Iraqi censorship.)





Demolition site: Iraqis picking their way through the rubble of two houses, reported by a Canadian journalist to have been destroyed by an allied cruise missile. The picture was taken last Friday in the main residential area of the town of Karradeh, near Baghdad

FRONT LINE

MP answers army's call

From Philip Jacobson
IN SAUDI ARABIA

THE first serving member of Parliament to put on British army uniform for duty in a war zone for almost half a century dropped in on the camp of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars yesterday.

Looking at home in his camouflage fatigues, Charles Goodson-Wickes, Conservative MP for Wimbledon and a specialist doctor, praised the "miraculous" level of care available in the military hospitals preparing for the beginning of ground fighting. "It is a real privilege to see and be able to take part in an operation that other professionals have been putting together with such care," he said.

Mr Goodson-Wicke . aged 45, once a career officer in the Life Guards, served in Northern Ireland, Germany and Cyprus before moving into politics. He volunteered for Gulf duty immediately after the appeal went out for reservists with "a military and medical background". With his keen interest in defence — he has recently become a member of the Commons defence committee — Mr Goodson-Wickes felt he was the right man for the job.

Goodson-Wickes: at home in camouflage fatigues

On his arrival early in January, he was posted to the 200-bed 32 Field Hospital, part of Britain's First Armoured Division, where his skills as an occupational physician were welcomed. He runs the equivalent of a casualty depar ent, to which soldiers who are not in immediate need of surgery will be evacuated from the battlefield.

Mr Goodson-Wickes holds the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In addition to his hospital responsibilities, he works in liaison with medical formations — a contrast to his peacetime post as medical adviser to Barclays Bank.

Yesterday Mr Goodson-Wickes recalled how, before leaving for the Gulf, he had thrown a dinner party for those who had served in the Commons and the armed forces during the second world war. Lord Hailsham, who was among the guests, had reminisced about the occasion when the then prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, faced his vote of confidence in May 1940: every man in uniform, Lord Hailsham said, tramped off into the "No" lobby.

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

CASUALTIES

Body count details put on computer

From Christopher Walker in Saudi Arabia

AS THE start of the land war moves closer, preparations for dealing with the expected tens of thousands of dead from both sides are being completed.

In the American army, the task of dealing with those killed has been computerised, with "battle roster numbers", two-letter, four-digit combinations, going on record to help the military keep track of the casualties.

This technological innovation is designed to lessen the chances of "unknown soldiers" being left behind by giving combat units a means of referring to individual troops over insecure radio frequencies without identifying them by name or unit.

But the system is being criticised already. Many officers argue that it may delay the identification of casualties, since it adds one more set of letters and numbers to the many already assigned to the American forces.

"The battle roster only adds to the paper work," complained Staff Sergeant Jitendra Shukla, a veteran with 14 years' service, attached to a medical unit. "Why not just use the social security number as the battle roster number?"

He went on: "We have tried 100,000 ways to keep track of casualties. But once a soldier is a casualty, it is virtually impossible to track his whereabouts by the hour. He might be taken to one hospital, given some treatment, and then a few hours later taken to another hospital, and the first hospital may have no idea where. I have tried to iron it out several times, but ... it can be days before you know where a casualty is.'

Letters, page 13

RELIGION

Saudis relax curbs on worship

From Mariam Isa
IN SAUDI ARABIA

THE Saudi government is becoming more openly tolerant of the non-Muslim religious beliefs of the thousands of allied soldiers deployed in their country.

Before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, non-Muslim worship in the desert kingdom, which is the birthplace of Islam and site of the religion's two holy cities, was strictly prohibited. The arrival of more than half a million Western soldiers, now fighting Iraq alongside Saudi, Kuwaiti and other Arab forces, has changed all that.

Desert worship services for Christians and Jews are held regularly, albeit far from the public eye. Chaplains and priests distribute bibles to American soldiers rediscovering their faith as they wait for their first taste of combat.

In an unprecedented step last Tuesday, a Roman Catholic chaplain from the United States army blessed a mess hall at an air base shared with Saudi, Kuwaiti and British forces. Father Vincent Inhilterra of Paterson, New Jersey, was careful to make his dedication ecumenical by beginning with the phrase: "Oh God, Allah" and ending it by saying in Arabic: "May the God of all bless us all."

Afterwards, he said that Saudi restrictions on the practice of non-Muslim religions were not as severe as most people believed. Christians could practice their religion as long as they did not try to convert Muslims, and he felt priests and their Saudi hosts had become more comfortable with one another compared with six months ago.

US AIR FORCE

Vietnam veterans hail pilots of today

From Reuter
IN THE GULF

AMERICAN pilots who flew in Vietnam say their younger Gulf war counterparts are better equipped, better trained and more intelligent.

More than 15 years after the fall of Saigon, few Vietnam veterans are still on active service, but they hold key positions. From a pilot's point of view, the difference between Vietnam's jungle guerrilla war and today's open desert campaign was one of men and equipment, said Colonel Manfred Rietsch, aged 49.

Vietnam conscripts, reluctant soldiers, have little in common with today's highly motivated volunteers armed with high-technology weapons. "They are 1,000 per cent more prepared than we were," said Lieutenant-Colonel Scott Dudley, aged 42, who flew F4 Phantoms in Vietnam.

"When I was asked to 'go and do it' I had barely 100 hours of flying," Colonel Rietsch recalled. "Our guys here had between 700 and 1,000 hours." Three weeks into the war, "they are getting combat-wise as we go along," said Colonel Don Beaufait, aged 44.

Political support for the war is a great morale-booster. "The objectives are clearer this time," said Colonel Beaufait. President Saddam Hussein's posture made the war seem more clear-cut than Vietnam. Major Mike Healey, an F/A18 pilot, said: "The nice thing this time is we've got a real villain. Ho Chi Minh was kind of a folk hero."

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INTERCITY

Assaults in the surgery uncovered by GPs' survey

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY two-thirds of family doctors have been abused or assaulted by patients or patients' relatives in the past 12 months, according to a sample survey published today.

The survey, in the *British Medical Journal*, is the largest of its kind and shows an alarmingly high incidence of violence in the surgery and during night visits, and suggests that it is increasing. Many doctors said that they were repeatedly abused or assaulted, with incidents ranging from verbal abuse, or objects being thrown, to severe physical injury needing hospital care. Forty per cent of the patients became aggressive because they were anxious or had been kept waiting.

The study of 1,093 doctors in the West Midlands shows that 62.9 per cent had suffered some sort of aggression in the previous year. Nearly 15 per cent experienced regular verbal abuse (at least once a month) and 2.8 per cent regular threatening behaviour. Three doctors claimed that they were regularly physically assaulted or obstructed. Thirty-six GPs had sustained minor injuries from an assault in the past 12 months and five had been severely injured during that period.

Over half the incidents occurred in the surgery, with 40 per cent of all incidents taking place in the consulting room. Serious violence tended to happen during home visits, particularly at night, and the aggressor was generally male and under 40. Nearly 40 per cent of aggressors were male patients and 24.8 per cent were male relatives of patients. Relatives were responsible for aggression in 37.6 per cent of incidents.

Aggression was often influenced by drugs or alcohol, although anxiety was the main factor in a quarter of the cases. Long waits in the surgery and bereavement were also associated with violence. Mental illness was the most important factor linked with serious assault injuries. The report's author, Dr Richard Hobbs, of the department of general practice at Birmingham university, says that the survey confirms that aggression during the working day is a regular feature for many GPs.

Recent studies concerning other health and social services staff have prompted employers to find safer ways of providing services, but these are often impractical for the self-employed GP, he says. GPs suffering abuse should discuss it with colleagues, and practices should have protocols for dealing with incidents.

Attempts should also be made to improve the surgery environment, using muted colours, soft lighting and sound-proofed consulting rooms, he says. Medical students should be trained in communication skills, particulary in dealing with the mentally ill and drug abusers.

Dr Hobbs says that the increase in violence should not, however, undermine the doctor/patient relationship and that access should not be restricted. "Reduced access to the doctor would be likely to increase the stress and lengthen the delays for patients, two of the principal factors that precipitate violence," he says.

Although there was only a 40 per cent response rate from the initial 2,469 sample, Dr Hobbs points out that 37 per cent of respondents had not suffered any abuse, and non-respondents shared similar ages, sex, practice size and location.

The British Medical Association suggested that an increased workload on doctors under GP contracts could be increasing the stress of doctors and patients, this being reflected in more violence. Dr John Chisholm, GP negotiator for the BMA, said that he deplored the fact that doctors, who depended on mutual trust with patients, were being abused.

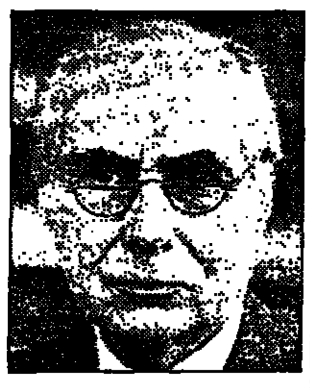
Move to cut research on animals

RESEARCH into methods of reducing the number of animals used in laboratory experiments is being encouraged in a project funded by the Home Office (Thomson Prentice writes).

Details of the scheme are given in the *British Medical Journal* today by Sir Andrew Huxley, the chairman of a Home Office sub-committee that is investigating alternatives to the use of animals by scientists.

Earlier this week an enquiry by the Medical Research Council found that a professor, then aged 89, and his assistant had caused unnecessary suffering to rabbits during experimental work at the National Institute for Medical Research, which is based in north London. The council said that it was introducing stricter controls on experiments involving animals and was reducing the number of animals used.

Sir Andrew says that the animal procedures committee at the Home Office will fund research proposals holding a good prospect of leading to the refinement or replacement of work that uses large numbers of animals or that entails substantial suffering.



Sir Andrew: investigating the alternatives

Transport spending

Investment to rise 25% in three years

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

DETAILS of the government's proposed £16 billion investment programme in new and modernised transport infrastructure were published by the transpsort department yesterday.

The expenditure plans, first outlined in the Chancellor's autumn statement in November, cover all spending proposals on rail, light rail, underground services, the national and local road network, civil aviation, and shipping.

Investment in transport infrastructure during the next three years will increase by 25 per cent in real terms over the previous three years, although investment levels, defined as a percentage of total government spending, are still below those recorded in 1979.

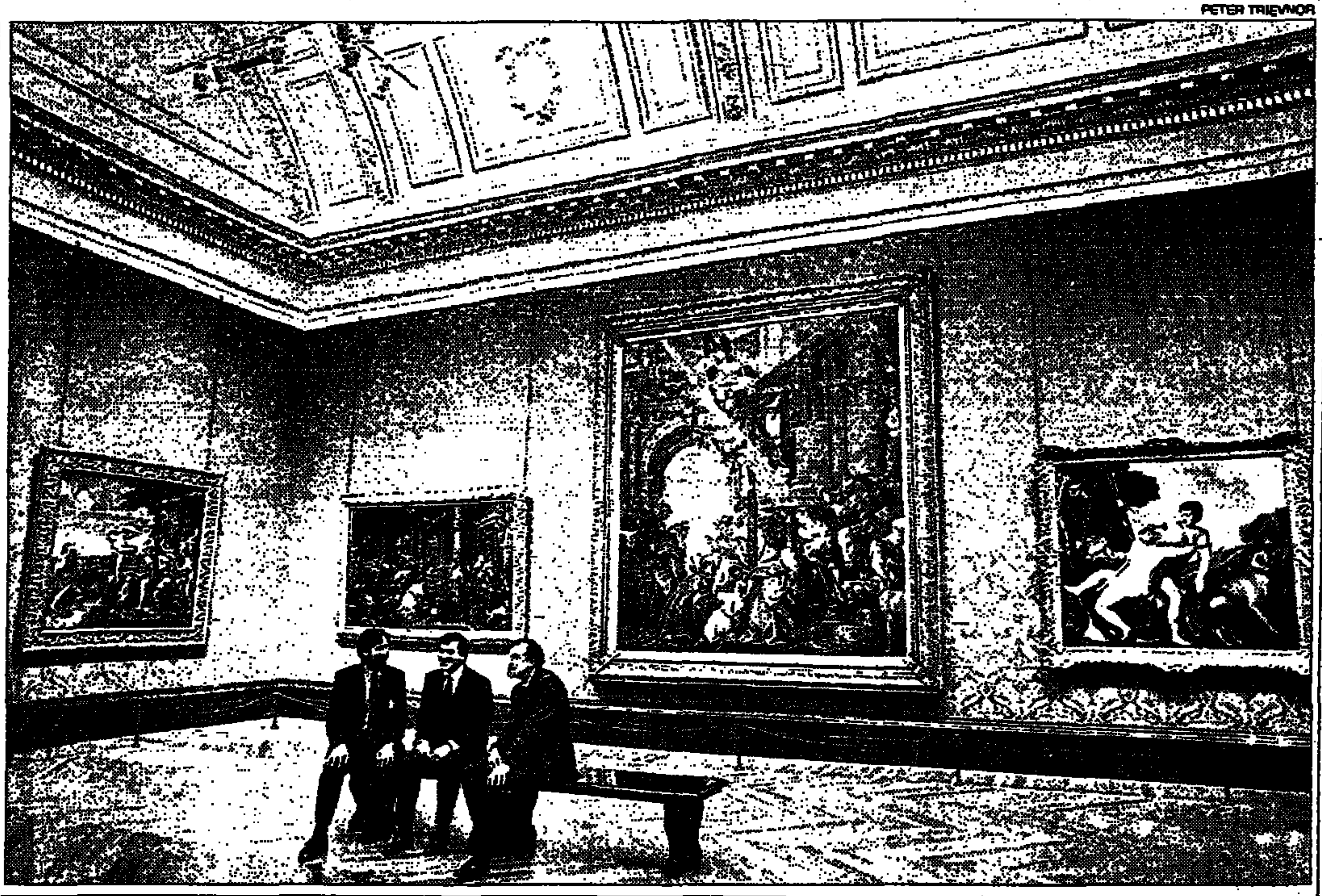
Spending on British Rail will go up by 60 per cent, the highest for 30 years, while spending on London Underground will rise by 90 per cent, the highest recorded. Spending on the national road system will increase by 25 per cent.

British Rail is planning to invest more than £4 billion throughout the national rail network, including £1.4 billion on upgrading links to the Channel tunnel, and about £100 million on railway safety improvements.

London Underground plans to invest some £2.472 billion over the three year period, including £121 million on the extension of the Jubilee line between Charing Cross and Stratford.

The transport department expects to complete a variety of road schemes in the present financial year, including two sections of the A14 link between the M1 and the A1, and the Newcastle upon Tyne western bypass. A total of 160 bypass schemes are now under construction or are in the planning and design stages.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Back in the frame: Neil MacGregor, centre, director of the National Gallery, views the newly refurbished west wing, which reopened to the public yesterday and was made possible by sponsorship worth £1.5 million (Simon Tait writes). With him are Michael Wilson, left, the head of exhibitions, and Michael Morrison, architectural adviser. Mr MacGregor said: "The cost has been about £2.5 million, but without this patronage the reclamation of these galleries and the installation of the essential air-conditioning system would not have been possible." A special hexagonal room has been created to hang together masterpieces by J.M.W. Turner and the French painter Claude, as stipulated in Turner's bequest. The reopening of the rooms heralds the reorganisation of picture hanging in the gallery, which is now arranged chronologically. "This rearrangement is closely linked with the opening of the new Sainsbury wing in the summer," Mr MacGregor said.

Psychiatrists launch drive against eating disorders

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A UNIVERSITY graduate weighed just four stones and was close to death when she was admitted to hospital with an extreme form of anorexia nervosa, the eating disorder.

The woman's case was described yesterday by Andrew Sims, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, at the launch of a campaign to educate the public about the disorder and a related condition, bulimia nervosa.

Professor Sims said that the woman was obsessed with losing weight and had starved herself to such an extent that she could not swallow. "She was little more than a skeleton," he said.

Chris Freeman, a psychiatrist at the Royal Edinburgh hospital, said that cases included a woman who lost half her weight and whose evening meal was an Oxo cube, and a girl of 18 who had the bones of a 60-year-old due to damage she had done her body. "Hundreds of thousands of women in this country have a serious eating disorder or some of the symptoms," he said. Although only about a dozen deaths a year resulted from anorexia nervosa in Britain, a study spanning more than 33 years in Sweden had shown a mortality rate of 19 per cent among sufferers.

Richard Williams, a psychiatrist at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children, said that a London survey of 15-year-old girls showed that 31 per cent were dieting, and just under 3 per cent had diagnosable eating problems.

"Dieting in the teenage years appears to be connected with the later development of more severe eating disorders," Dr Williams said. "Control of eating is one way of dealing with the inherent anxieties of growing up through creating an illusion of self-control."

The average age of onset of anorexia nervosa was about 16, but cases were appearing in girls as young as ten or 11, Dr Williams said.

A leaflet, *Anorexia and Bulimia*, can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.

200 jobs lost

British Aerostructures is to axe 200 jobs at its factory in Hamble, Hampshire. The company, a wholly owned subsidiary of British Aerospace that makes components for civil and military aircraft, blamed the redundancies on the recession. The job losses will be mainly among clerical and supervisory staff.

Taylor petition

Conservative party chiefs were yesterday handed a petition with 400 signatures backing the fight by John Taylor, a black barrister, to remain the prospective Tory parliamentary candidate for Cheltenham. Paid-up party members in the constituency signed the petition last week to counter one signed by 138 party rebels. The association will reconsider the issue at a special meeting on Sunday.

Tube route safe

Proposals to build a new Underground line between Chelsea and Hackney have been given planning safeguards, the transport department announced yesterday. London Underground now has the power to object to any development schemes that might impede construction within a 100-yard zone above the route of the proposed £1.5 billion line, between Wimbledon and Hainault.

Ruling awaited

A decision will be made in the High Court today on whether Anthony Ward, who fractured his skull when he fell over a balustrade at the Ritz hotel, London, can continue his claim for £1 million damages. Mr Justice Macpherson is to rule on whether the hotel was liable for the accident in October 1985 involving Mr Ward, aged 50, of Hendon, northwest London. The hotel denies liability.

Marksman had illegal rare bird collection

By PETER DAVENPORT

A LEADING international clayshooter who was discovered to have an illegal collection of nearly 300 stuffed birds in his home, including four eagles and an osprey, was yesterday fined a total of £8,500 by magistrates.

Graham Stirzaker, aged 38, a former member of the national clayshooting team, pleaded guilty to possessing 282 protected birds, 69 of them subject to special protection because of their rarity.

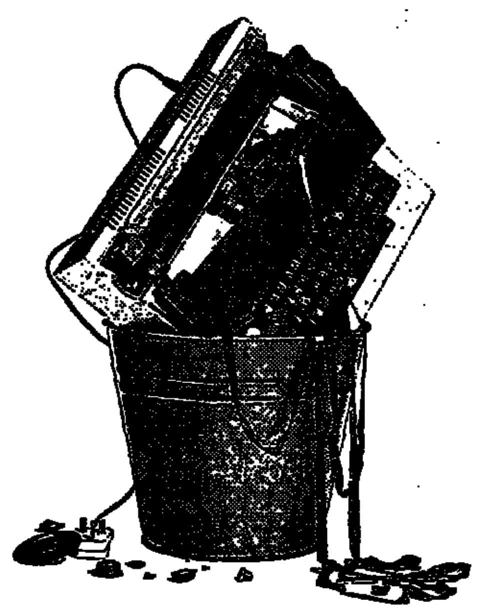
He also received two six-month suspended sentences, had his shotgun confiscated, and his firearms certificates revoked. The birds were all protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Magistrates at Garstang, Lancashire, were told that police found the birds, some in a freezer, at Stirzaker's home in Hambleton, Lancashire. They went to the house after he was seen on nearby marshes shooting rare black-tailed godwits.

He faced 11 charges, nine of them under the wildlife act and two under the Firearms Act 1968. Donald Fletcher, for the prosecution, said that the collection had been built up over more than 20 years. He said that Stirzaker had told police that many of the birds had been shot by other people.

Michael Buckley, counsel for the defence, said that Stirzaker had never knowingly shot a protected bird which he thought it was illegal for him to shoot. When he had started his collection it had not been illegal to possess many of the birds.

DOWN.



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Law puts the brake on speeding trucks with 60mph limiters

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

VIOLATIONS of the 60mph speed limit by heavy goods vehicles are to be prevented by the introduction of speed limiters on all new vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, Christopher Chope, the roads minister announced yesterday.

The move, unveiled at the committee stage of the road traffic bill, is part of a wider review of speed limits for all categories of vehicle on motorways, dual and single carriageways, which transport department officials initiated in the autumn.

Mr Chope said there were "substantial advantages" to be obtained from the compulsory fitting of speed limiters to all new heavy goods vehicles. "There is widespread speeding by heavy goods vehicles, and the introduction of speed limiters should make a worthwhile contribution to improving road safety."

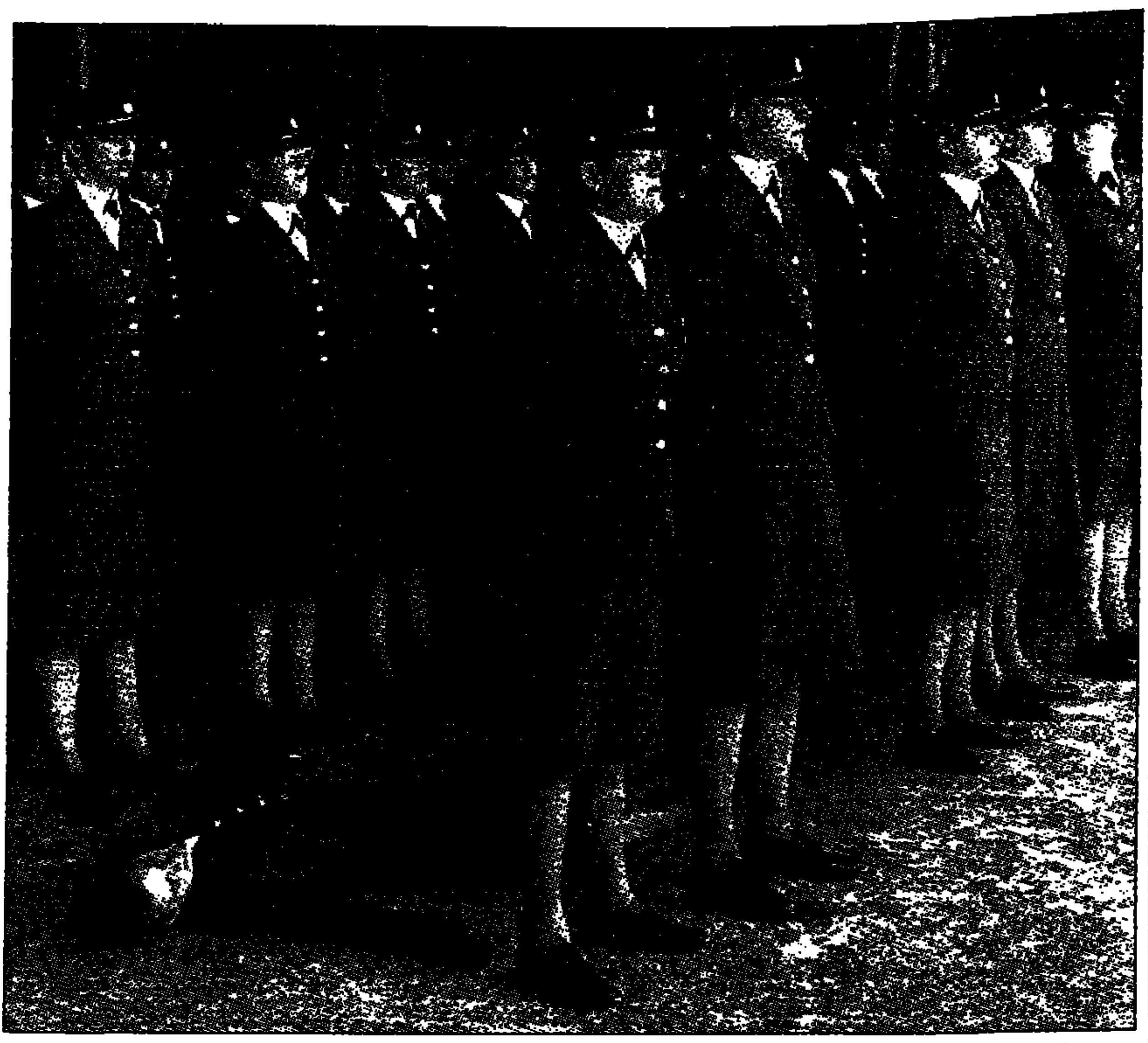
Nearly 1,000 people are killed and more than 4,000 people seriously injured every year in collisions involving heavy goods vehicles, Mr Chope said. Estimates suggest that when the entire lorry fleet is fitted with speed limiters, which control fuel flow,deaths and injuries will fall by 25 and 400 a year respectively.

The move has received widespread support from the road haulage industry because of the fuel savings it will yield, calculated at 20 million litres of derv in the first year, and 150 million litres a year when the entire fleet is fitted. The Freight Transport Association welcomed Mr Chope's announcement, "providing it forms part of a policy which would improve the fuel consumption of heavy lorries". Speeding on motorways had declined but there were still too many lorries being driven too fast.

Chope: "Contribution to improving road safety"

Speed limiters, likely to be introduced in August 1992, will also make a significant contribution to the environment by reducing Britain's annual carbon dioxide emissions by 60,000 tonnes in the first year, and 500,000 tonnes when all lorries have been fitted. The wider review, which includes an evaluation of whether speed limits should be increased or decreased, is not expected to be completed for another two to three months. It is understood, however, that officials are considering whether to increase motorway speeds to 80mph, and reduce speeds on other roads to 50mph.

Leading article, page 13



Caught cold: one of three members of the Women's Royal Army Corps who collapsed at Guildford yesterday as they waited for a midwinter inspection by Lord Arran, the defence under-secretary. Rail chaos, page 1

Pledge by Labour on college standards

LABOUR yesterday promised to raise the quality of higher education through the establishment of an academic standards council for universities, polytechnics and colleges (John O'Leary writes).

The council would be able to recommend closure of courses or whole institutions, but the party's consultative document *Quality Assured* expects persuasion and example to be the norm. It would take over functions of the Council for National Academic Awards and the universities' academic audit unit, and although government-funded, would have independent status.

Andrew Smith, Labour's higher education spokesman, said the costs of the council might produce a saving on the £8 million now spent by quality control agencies. The system would tell students what quality of education they could expect, and would exert pressure for higher standards.

The council would review institutions' quality assurance mechanisms, the external examiner system, student evaluation of courses, staff appraisal and career development, and the development of academic credit transfer.

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Todd starts race for his successor

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

RON Todd, Britain's most powerful and influential union leader, announced yesterday the beginning of the election procedure to choose his successor as general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Although a staunch supporter of Neil Kinnock, Mr Todd has consistently embarrassed Labour by his uncompromising commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Although Mr Todd will not relinquish his post until March next year, he is determined to introduce his successor to the union's 1.25 million members at its conference in July. At least three senior union officials will stand in the election, which promises to be hard fought and could become extremely bitter.

For the left, the champion will be Bill Morris, Britain's most prominent black trade unionist, who has proved a worthy deputy to Mr Todd in the complex and sometimes hostile world of the TGWU.

Mr Morris said yesterday that his main task, if he were elected, would be to fight for his members by arguing that jobs and living standards would decline unless there were a commitment to formulating an industrial strategy based on manufacturing, coupled with an immediate cut of 2 percentage points in interest rates.

His main opponent, backed by most of the union's regional secretaries and carrying the banner of the moderate right, will be George Wright, regional secretary for Wales, who also hopes to draw support from his former base in the Midlands.

Mr Wright believes that the TGWU, which is deeply in debt, faces a struggle to survive. He said that because the union was the largest affiliate to both the TUC and the Labour party, its direction would have a "massive" effect on the whole labour movement. He would try to create a more constructive relationship with Labour, while "retaining an independent right to function as an effective trade union".

Bob Harrison, the union's national secretary for food, drink and tobacco industries, is putting himself forward as a candidate able to unify political factions within the union.

The last contest for the leadership, in 1984, was marred by allegations of ballot irregularities. In a re-run vote, Mr Todd defeated Mr Wright by 325,586 to 248,746.

Agents face move for ethics code

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE government should introduce a mandatory code of practice and minimum standards of competence for estate agents to protect the public from unqualified and unscrupulous "rogue" agents, John Buddle, president of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, said yesterday.

He said that the society and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors would launch an initiative this month through meetings with the government, the Office of Fair Trading, consumer organisations and professional bodies. Government proposals for stricter controls on agents did not go far enough, he said. "We shall seek to persuade those responsible that the present policy is not offering the public the protection they expect and deserve."

Speaking in London, Mr Buddle said that the reputation of estate agents was marred by the few rogue agents, and until the government introduced a mandatory code of practice with statutory backing and laid down minimum standards of competence, the public and profession would continue to suffer.

"Voluntary self-regulation will simply not work. It is the activities of those on the fringe of our industry who concern us most. Can anybody really believe that they would subscribe to a voluntary code?"

BBC to cut 300 posts in Wales

BBC Wales is to shed 300 jobs in a £2.8 million cost-cutting plan aimed at making more money available for programme production. BBC Radio Gwent, which has 2,500 listeners, will be closed down.

The move, which comes after BBC Midlands announced 80 redundancies and BBC Bristol 91, is part of a strategy to save the corporation £75 million by 1993. HTV, the Welsh ITV company, recently announced 200 redundancies.

Keegan banned

The former England footballer Kevin Keegan, aged 39, was yesterday fined £250 and banned from driving for eight weeks. He admitted driving at 110mph on the M3 near Winchester, Hampshire.

Teacher's legacy

Gertrude Barwood, a retired village school teacher of Lowestoft, Suffolk, who died aged 79, left nearly £250,000 to the children's ward at her local hospital.

Sugar jobs lost

British Sugar is to shed 106 jobs at its factory in Brigg, South Humberside, due to a reorganisation of the beet side of production.

Water costs up

Water costs are to rise by 5p a day for consumers in the Severn-Trent area. A 15 per cent increase in charges means householders will pay £138 a year from April compared to an average of £120.

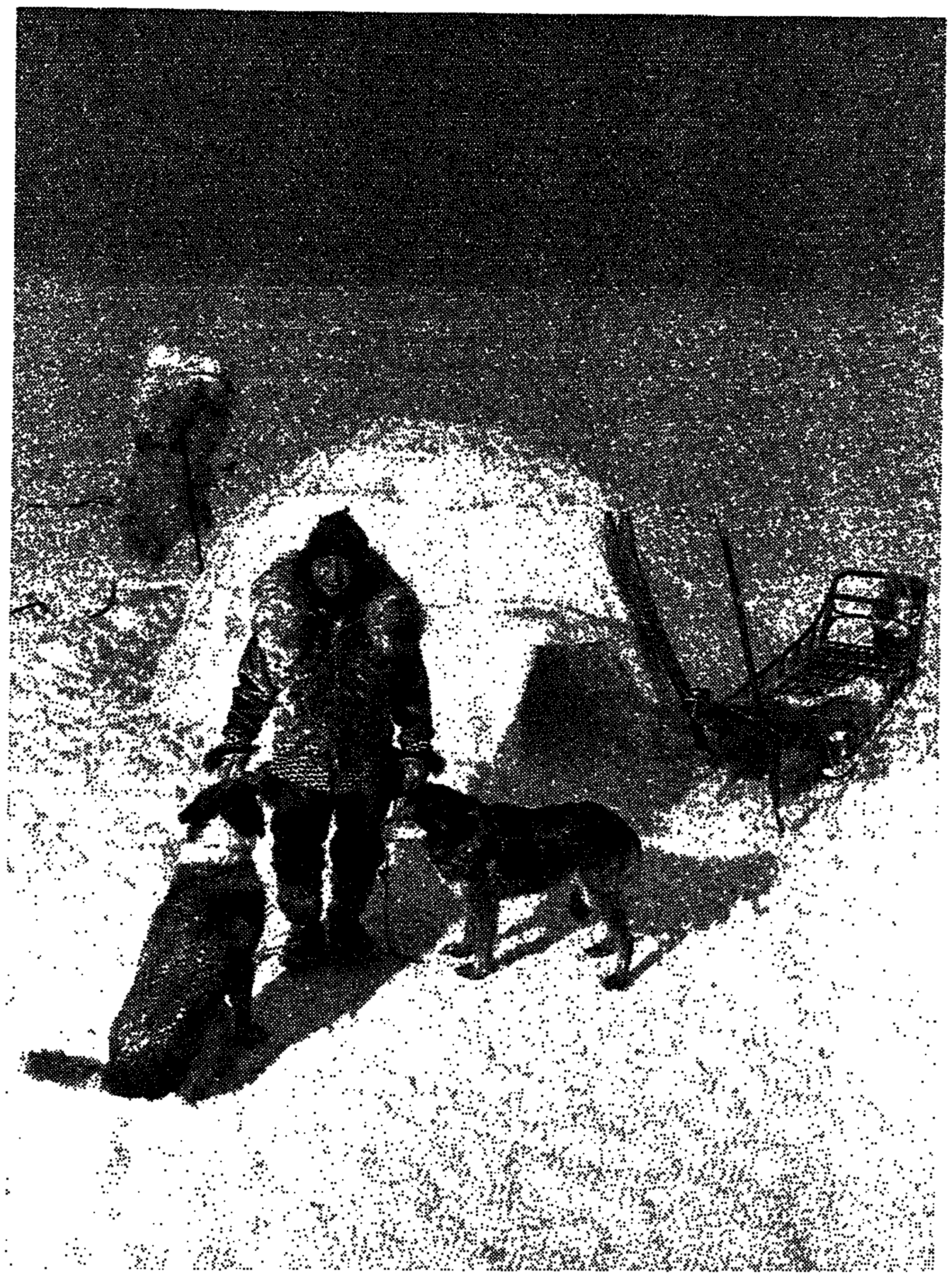
Security call

Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, called yesterday for an urgent security review after a burglar broke into an official residence in Cardiff where a judge and his wife were staying.

Jet abandoned

Manchester airport is to sell a BAC 1-11 jet abandoned three years ago by an airline belonging to a Nigerian chief. The aircraft will be sold for £150,000 to settle £20,000 landing and parking costs.

British Gas



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Million jobs hang in the balance, Labour survey says

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is facing renewed pressure for an immediate cut in interest rates with the publication today of a Labour party survey claiming that 1,000 jobs are being lost every working day.

Nearly a million jobs hang in the balance, and unemployment will rise above two million this month or next, according to a detailed nationwide analysis of job losses and jobs threatened presented by Henry McLeish, an Opposition employment spokesman.

The survey comes as Conservative MPs join Labour in calling for interest rate reductions, and as ministers urge their colleagues to hold their nerve, promising cuts over the next few months.

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, led the demands yesterday, calling for a cut this week of one percentage point. On BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme he said: "The longer they are delayed, the longer the damage is going to be to industry and hard-pressed mortgage payers". On the same programme Tony Speller, Conservative MP for Devon North, said: "The patient is actually drowning and the patient is the small farmer, the small business, the small workshop. They are drowning in a sea of debt."

The Labour survey, based on a comprehensive analysis of specific job losses and job threats across the country in the last quarter of last year, finds that the recent CBI estimate of 80,000 job losses in the first quarter of this year is conservative and suggests that the figure is likely to be nearer 100,000.

Mr McLeish said: "This points to a deepening recession which looks likely to be as severe as the one in the early Eighties. As investment falls, bankruptcies increase, vacancies slump, unemployment rises and job losses accelerate the government offers no way out. A new industry policy is needed which combines a stable financial environment with new regional policies, supply-side initiatives and a partnership approach to rebuild our economic base."

The Labour survey revealed a total of 61,743 job losses, one of the highest quarterly figures since the mid-Eighties and a sharp increase over the previous quarter. Two regions, the North-West (12,394) and the South-East (12,954) account for 42 per cent of the losses. Manufacturing jobs accounted for 63 per cent of the losses.

The analysis found a further 740,000 jobs under threat; added to the 201,000 found in its survey of the previous quarter, nearly a million jobs are at risk.

Ministers are urging MPs privately to show patience and assuring them that better times are ahead. In the Commons on Tuesday, John Major held out the prospect of a sustained reduction of interest rates as inflation declined. The speech of Norman Lamont, the chancellor, in a Commons debate next Wednesday on the autumn statement will be closely watched for any clues as to the government's intentions.

Yesterday Mr Major told a Tory backbencher that the exchange-rate mechanism was in no sense a straitjacket. "If the pound were falling we would not be able to to cut interest rates whether we were in or out of the ERM. The instability that the mechanism provides will help in due course and not hinder."

He was speaking after Ian Taylor (Esher, C) said at Commons question time that, despite the recent rise in German interest rates, stability of sterling against the deutschmark indicated "increasing confidence in the government's determination to bring down inflation within the exchange-rate discipline".

Smith: demanding one-point cut in rate this week

Peers back away from challenge on sick pay bill

By JOHN WINDER

THE House of Lords climbed down last night from its challenge to the government over sick pay, but was warned that the Commons might extend their privilege over financial matters at the expense of the peers.

The Lords accepted without a vote a Commons claim that their privilege in financial matters meant that the Lords could not reverse a main point of the Statutory Sick Pay bill. Lords amendments would have shifted to the exchequer the costs of government changes to sick pay instead of charging them to employers.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, a former Conservative pensions minister, said that a year ago, financial privilege could not have been invoked. Privilege figured only when a charge was to be made on the consolidated fund. A year ago such a charge would have fallen on the national insurance, now the social, fund where financial privilege would not have arisen.

"This House should be a little vigilant in future to see whether there are further extensions of the finanacial privilege of the Commons and therefore further limitations of the powers of this House are not introduced."

Lord Henley, junior social security minister, said that there would have been a public cost of £100 million and the involvement of privilege was entirely a matter for the authorities of the Commons, not for the government.

"It is inescapable in the final analaysis that the matter must be decided on the single point of the financial privileges exercised by the Commons."

Lord Carter, for the Opposition, said that it was not a good reason for employers facing heavy extra costs.

"This has been a textbook exercise in how not to introduce and handle legislation. We can only hope that the government will have learnt from it."

Lord Boyd-Carpenter agreed on that and on the demerits of the legislation, but said that the Lords would not be wise to press the matter further in face of the privilege claim.

Lord Mottistone, another Conservative peer, said that this was a rather cowardly way to tackle the situation, but the Lords could not repeat its defeat of the government. Maternity pay and industrial injuries pay were vulnerable to similar action.

Lady Seear, for the Liberal Democrats, said that many issues discussed in the Lords involved money and their powers could be limited gradually and inevitably.

"The government rejection of the change shows how little they understand the position of small firms and business as a whole at present."

Lady Phillips (Lab) said that the Lords was constantly under challenge but had the epitome of wisdom and people with background and all the skills.

She had had many letters from small firms asking her to plead with the government to remove the extra costs of sick pay from them. "It is not for me to tell them how to get votes, but this exactly the way they will lose credence."

Award for Alf Morris

Alf Morris, Labour frontbench spokesman on the disabled, was made an officer of the Order of Australia yesterday, the first British MP to receive such an Australian award.

Mr Morris, who was honoured two years ago by New Zealand, is chairman of the Anzac group of MPs and peers and played an important role in the legislation passed last year enabling the public record copy of the Australian constitution to be given to Australia. He was the promoter of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970, on which much of New Zealand's legislation for the disabled is based.

Gulf refusal

Labour left-wingers pressed without success during business questions yesterday for a further Commons debate on the Gulf war. Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield, accused the government of preventing discussion of mass carpet bombing in Iraq and Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North, called for a debate on internment.

Security query

The first annual report of the security services commissioner, due on December 18, has still not been published, Rupert Allason, the Tory MP for Torbay, said at business questions. John MacGregor, Leader of the House, promised to investigate.

Africa visit

Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, leaves tomorrow for a visit to Mozambique and South Africa to review British aid programmes.

Tory chief whip in Lords to resign

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD Denham has told John Major that he wants to resign as the government's chief whip in the Lords later this year after 30 years on the front bench.

The hereditary peer, universally known as "Bertie", has made clear to the prime minister that he does not want to outstay his welcome and would like to hand over to his successor before the next general election.

He has mentioned May or June as his choice of time to go, but has told colleagues that he will leave earlier if that is more convenient to the government. Some ministers believe he was lucky to survive the last couple of reshuffles, but they have never underestimated his political shrewdness. He has always made clear that he wanted to go in his own time.

Lord Denham succeeded his father in 1948 and was only 34 when he was first appointed a Lords whip. The first Major government has brought home to him that, at 63, he is one of the oldest office holders in Parliament. The new leader of the Lords, Lord Waddington, is 61 and the only cabinet minister older than the Lords chief whip is Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, by three months.

The thriller-writing peer is the longest serving chief whip in either House, having spent 12 years in his present office.

Without the weapon of patronage available to Commons whips, the task of whipping Tory peers is a more subtle art. Lord Denham uses a unique formula of geniality, gin and a bit of public-school-style bullying.

Always swift to defend himself when the government suffered defeats in the Lords, he would argue that his job was to bring them in not tell them how to vote.

He takes seriously the continuing role of the Lords in the twentieth century on the basis that, however anachronistic it might appear, "it works".

Favourite as his successor is Lord Hesketh, the industry minister, although the deputy chief whip, Lord Davidson, is also being considered.

Costs cut at defence ministry

THE injection of competition into contracts for defence equipment has cut the cost of some orders by more than 30 per cent, according to the defence department (Sheila Gunn writes).

The commercial approach adopted in the Eighties had already saved £350 million through tighter contract conditions and the department predicted that a further £250 million will be saved over the next 20 years by buying more reliable equipment.

With £40 billion spent on defence equipment, stores and services over the past five years, the National Audit Office, the public spending watchdog, urged the department yesterday to keep up the momentum for achieving value for money.

The department told the audit office that the new commercial approach had led to savings, for example, of 10 per cent on four naval minehunters.

National Audit Office report: *Ministry of Defence: Initiatives in Defence Procurement* (Stationery Office; £4.95).

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Natural Heritage (Scotland) bill, second reading.
Tuesday: British Technology Group bill, second reading.
Wednesday: Debate on the chancellor's autumn statement.
Thursday: Debates on Opposition motions on farming and on fishing.
Friday: Private member's bill: Badgers bill, second reading.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

Tuesday: Debate on the economy.
Wednesday: NHS debate.
Thursday: Debate on EC shipping measures

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Public Safety Information bill and Registered Homes (Amendment) bill, second readings.

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Bush sends an upbeat signal on early end to recession

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush has sent an optimistic message to the American people, expressing his belief that there will be an early end to the economic recession which, with the Gulf war, is the country's chief obsession. It would not be too much to say that Mr Bush's hopes of a second term as president depend on a swift and successful end to both.

Mr Bush's re-election campaign will start rolling later this year, once the outcome of the Gulf conflict is clear. Until then he is reluctant to sound political rather then presidential about a war in which many thousands of young Americans may die even though he has "never been more certain of anything in my life" than he is of an allied victory.

The economy, however, is a safe partisan issue. "Make no mistake," he told thousands of business executives gathered for dinner at the Economic Club of New York on Wednesday night. "The current recession does not signal any decline in the fundamental, long-term health or basic vitality of our economy. America is a can-do nation."

Mr Bush's upbeat message came as his presidency, as a result of his decision three weeks ago to take military action against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, rides a wave of public support unparallelled in modern American history. But, for all the outpouring of patriotism across the country, Mr Bush is dogged by criticism that he has neglected domestic affairs, most notably the economy, in his undisguised preference for the more glamorous foreign arena.

Aside from the war and the recession, the administration is also plagued by fears that a fragile American banking system could blow up into a political nightmare similar to that engendered by the collapse of the savings and loan (thrift) industry.

The administration, which opposes government spending to boost the economy, has stepped up pressure in past weeks on the Federal Reserve Board, the independent central bank, to help bring about a swift recovery by lowering interest rates.

Mr Bush will give his annual presidential report on the economy next week. It is likely to dwell on his administration's budget proposals for next year and this week's long-awaited release of the most sweeping proposals since the Great Depression to overhaul the banking industry, including federal deposit insurance.

So far the Democrat-led Congress, mindful of the so-called "S&L disaster", has reacted coolly to the Treasury's proposals to reduce the barriers that have traditionally separated banking from other businesses. As a leader voted into office promising peace and prosperity after the go-go economic growth and US-Soviet rapprochement of the Reagan 1980s, Mr Bush is counting as much on the "mild and brief" recession predicted by his economic advisers as on the successful liberation of Kuwait for a second term in the White House.

On Wednesday night he predicted that the recession would end in "a couple of quarters" and would give way to a robust economy. The president tried to reassure Americans that they should not cancel travel or holiday plans because of terrorist threats and urged them to have more faith in their economy.

The scapegoat for the recession is the Iraqi leader, blamed by Mr Bush for tipping America's already weakening economy over the edge when he invaded Kuwait and sent oil prices soaring.

But Mr Bush faces a tougher task in persuading the public to trust his economic outlook than he did in winning their support for his Gulf policy. Consumer spending has fallen dramatically as job losses have averaged more than 200,000 a month over the past four months, bringing the unemployment rate to 6.2 per cent last month and dashing hopes for a short and shallow recession.

Summing up the national mood, a newspaper shop in central Washington began selling a new T-shirt with the slogan "Recession" and a graph depicting a tiny bar for consumer spending, a far larger one for Congress and an enormous bar for the federal government's bailout of the S & Ls.

Threat by Winnie Mandela

From RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE Mandela yesterday issued a chilling threat to whites to stay out of a black township where a dozen people have been killed and scores made homeless in deadly clashes since the weekend.

Addressing a rally at Bekkersdal, about 25 miles southeast of Johannesburg, the wife of Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress deputy president, said: "Any white person who comes here to interfere with us or who comes to preach peace — that person must not leave Bekkersdal alive. Their wives and mothers will have to fetch them as corpses."

It was the most vitriolic speech Mrs Mandela has delivered since her call in Soweto three years ago — which has been a continual embarrassment to the ANC — to liberate the country with "our matches and necklaces", referring to the killing of suspected government sympathisers by placing a burning petrol-filled tyre around their necks.

Extra troops and police have been sent to Bekkersdal, where months of tension between supporters of the ANC and the black consciousness Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) exploded last weekend. The fiery remarks by Mrs Mandela, whose trial on kidnapping and assault charges resumes in Johannesburg next Monday, were seen as referring particularly to the extra security force presence.

The rally in the township soccer stadium was addressed by representatives of Azapo, the Pan Africanist Congress, the Zulu Inkatha movement and the ANC, who made a joint call for peace.

Tension rose before the rally started when ANC marshals insisted on searching their political rivals before admitting them to the stadium. Police and troops kept a close watch but did not intervene.

Speakers blamed the violence on "the Boers and the apartheid government". Mrs Mandela, addressing the crowd in bothEnglish and Xhosa. declared: "Your spears should be pointed in the direction of Pretoria. Our enemy is in Pretoria. We have never had enemies within ourselves. We are all here because of our fight for freedom. The enemy come here to exploit our differences.

"We are normal human beings, we all have our differences and it is healthy to have debate among ourselves. But we are not going to allow the brute boys to come and exploit us."

● **Centrist coalition:** Zach de Beer, the leader of South Africa's Democratic Party, has proposed a broad-based, centrist coalition as the best format for sharing power in the post-apartheid era (Gavin Bell writes from Cape Town).

He voiced concern over moves by the National Party government to form a pact with smaller parties to defeat the African National Congress and its allies at the polls. "I think that would be extremely unwise," he said.

He said a government which excluded either the National Party or the ANC would lead to confrontation and instability.

FORMER president Ronald Reagan spoons birthday cake off his dinner jacket at his 80th birthday celebrations in a Beverly Hills hotel, as a laughing Nancy Reagan looks on. He lent against the cake after blowing out the candles at the height of an evening of nostalgia and patriotic pride on Wednesday night, at which Margaret Thatcher joined a host of leading personalities from politics and entertainment to pay him tribute (Charles Bremner writes). Eyes were already misty when Mr Reagan rose for an emotional salute to his "special friend Margaret" who had stood shoulder-to-shoulder with him in reviving the resolve of the free world in the 1980s. Now the allies were joined in fighting the "madman Saddam Hussein". Mrs Thatcher, who brought her husband and son to the party, said: "the Reagan years were great years for America and the world." And, she remarked, her friend Ron was "quite an incentive to those of us about to start on a new career later in life". She spoke of the "despot" Saddam and noted: "The United States and the United Kingdom, bound by friendship which has long endured and which has never been closer, stand together in the fight as we have stood so often before."

Leaked document shows split over Nato's future strategy

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

FRESH evidence of disarray among Nato nations over the future role of the alliance emerged in a confidential document leaked yesterday.

It allegedly records how Nato's strategy-makers are still divided over how to react collectively to the Gulf war and other regional conflicts, and over Nato's relations with its former Cold War enemies. It also exposes a split over how far Europe should look after its own defence, without the direct participation of America.

News of such a split could hardly come at worse time, coinciding as it does with a Franco-German call for a common European defence policy which the British government fears would leave America out in the cold and undermine the very existence of Nato. Paris and Bonn are calling for an effective merger between the European Community and the Western European Union, integrating the two bodies at all levels under a joint presidency. Britain and The Netherlands have deep reservations about the plan.

Nato played down the damning reports of disunity among its members yesterday claiming that there was still "a great deal of consensus". A spokesman admitted "some questions remain open", although he flatly denied that key discussions between the 16 Nato ambassadors, aimed at reshaping Nato strategy by the summer, had run aground.

The confidential document leaked to Reuters yesterday and prepared last December summarises a series of "brain-storming" meetings between the ambassadors at the express wish of Manfred Wörner, the secretary-general. The spokesman called the document an "interim report on the progress of Nato's strategy review" and described the "frank expression of views" within it as "a vital part of Nato's decision-making process". He added that the summary had already been presented to the Nato foreign ministers.

But the document will do little to restore confidence in the alliance at a time when it is struggling for a fresh identity after defending the West against the perceived expansionist might of the Soviet Union for 40 years.

The Gulf war has exposed divisions over how active a role Nato should play outside the territory of its member countries. Herr Wörner's interim report portrays this as perhaps the greatest test of all for the alliance. France is wary of extending the powers of Nato, believing it to be dominated too heavily by the Americans. Britain and America disagree, believing Nato could at least use its military assets to supply troops in the Gulf and other regional conflicts, although Nato forces would not actually fight outside alliance territory.

Russia agrees to poll on unity

From MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Federation parliament voted yesterday to approve the nationwide referendum on the future of the Soviet Union, but cleared the way for additional questions that would enhance the power of the republic and its president, Boris Yeltsin. Russia's decision to support the referendum will be a small consolation for President Gorbachev.

The referendum, which is planned for March 17, asks: "Do you consider it necessary to preserve the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics, in which human rights and freedoms will be guaranteed to persons of any nationality?" The question has come in for widespread criticism, both for its complexity and for the presumption that a continued union should necessarily be Soviet and socialist.

But few parliamentary deputies yesterday challenged whether the referendum should be held. Mr Yeltsin said that he was, and had always been, in favour of the Soviet Union remaining one country, and most reformist deputies were concerned only to ensure that Russia also gained some benefit from the exercise.

Two additional questions were proposed: one requesting approval for a directly elected president, the second asking whether the Russian Federation should be preserved as a single republic, including the areas populated by ethnic minority groups which have semi-autonomous status. Mr Yeltsin, whose hands would be tied by a "yes" to that question, proposed replacing it with one closer to his heart: "Do you approve of buying and selling land?"

In December the Russian parliament sanctioned private land ownership, but not sales. The assembly, invariably split between conservatives and radicals, failed to agree on which questions to include and delegated the decision to the committee organising the referendum.

The original purpose of the referendum, when it was agreed in December, was to give Mr Gorbachev a popular mandate (however contrived) to push through his new union treaty. He had hoped to have the treaty signed by the end of last year, but has encountered fierce opposition from at least seven of the Soviet Union's 15 republics. Now at least six republics, including the three Baltic republics, have said they will boycott the referendum and Mr Gorbachev has outlawed Lithuania's separate referendum on independence.

● **Bugs found:** The Russian parliament was told in the opening minutes of yesterday's session that electronic bugging devices had been discovered in Mr Yeltsin's office. According to the report, the equipment was found in one of the rooms of the parliament reserved for the KGB. A parliamentary commission was set up to investigate.

Chinese attack US rights report

Peking — China attacked the US State Department's report on human rights in the country in 1990, issued last week, as "entirely unacceptable" (Catherine Sampson writes). A foreign ministry spokesman, Li Zhaoxing, said the report was an "unwarranted criticism of, and an unscrupulous interference in, the internal affairs of many countries on the pretext of human rights" .

He said: "Since the founding of New China, the Chinese people, as masters of their own country, have enjoyed extensive democratic rights and freedom." Questioned by journalists, he declined to give details of how many people were imprisoned or executed for their part in the democracy movement of spring 1989.

Mr Li spoke as two men awaited sentencing and two others prepared for their trial on charges of trying to overthrow the government. In recent weeks, China has taken advantage of the Gulf war to press ahead with long-delayed trials of political detainees.

Diplomats said yesterday's outburst was a return to a hardline rejection of Western concern on rights. After the visit in December of Richard Schifter, the American Assistant Secretary of State, Chinese officials had refrained from referring to all Western concerns as "gross interference". Some observers suggested China's leaders were upset that the political trials had attracted international criticism despite the war and relatively lenient sentences.

Pollution fight

Delhi — The authorities in Delhi ordered the immediate closure of nearly 400 factories, a move of desperation by the world's fourth most polluted city. The closures will be a blow to the job-hungry Indian capital. The premises have been declared hazardous, obnoxious or unhygienic, but in reality many factories will bribe their way out of closure.

Khartoum denial

Khartoum — The Sudanese military government has dismissed as untrue charges by Lynda Chalker, the minister for overseas development, that it is refusing to help its citizens survive famine. Abdallah Muhammad Ahmed, the information minister, added that Mrs Chalker had not been invited to visit Khartoum. *(AP)*

Andes landfall

Colorado Springs, Colorado — The 40-tonne Soviet spacecraft Salyut 7, launched in 1982 and abandoned four years ago, plunged late on Wednesday into the Andes mountains in Argentina, near the Chilean border, the US Space Command said here. Commander Charles Connor said: "We are sure parts of it were intact when it hit the ground." *(Reuter)*

Burma jail death

Bangkok — Another member of Burma's main opposition party has died in prison and relatives doubt the military government's claim that he died of leukaemia. Burma's state radio said last week that Tin Maung Win, who won a seat in parliament in last May's elections, died on January 18. Diplomats contacted in Rangoon said he died in Insein Jail *(AP)*

'Dr Death' suicide

Taipei — A Taiwanese undertaker dubbed "Dr Death" after claiming to provide a euthanasia service for the terminally ill killed himself to escape investigation, police said. Li Wenlang, the owner of the Direct to Heaven mortuary, gassed himself in his car outside a coffin shop in the city of Chungli after running a rubber hose from the exhaust pipe. *(Reuter)*

Shell-shocked

Peking — More than 200,000 student "volunteers" who wielded pickaxes to break the ice and dredge the Summer Palace lake, a popular skating and boating venue here for residents and tourists, had an unpleasant surprise when they reached the bottom and discovered more than 200 unexploded Nationalist artillery shells dating from the 1920s.

Left-wing priest sworn in as Haitian president

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

Word of welcome: President-elect Aristide meeting Danielle Mitterrand, the wife of the French leader

FATHER Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, was sworn into office yesterday, five years to the day after the fall of the 29-year Duvalier dictatorship.

The 37-year-old left-wing priest and champion of the poor repeated the oath of office, swearing to uphold the 1987 constitution, in a solemn ceremony in the austere Chamber of Deputies of the Legislative Palace. Dignitaries from 22 nations attended the inauguration, a milestone for the impoverished Caribbean nation that has been ruled by despots virtually since independence from France in 1804.

Speaking in the Creole vernacular used by the masses, Father Aristide raised his right hand and read the oath from the constitution: "I swear before God and the nation to observe and to uphold the constitution and the laws of the republic faithfully, to respect and to protect the rights of the Haitian people, to work for the grandeur of the fatherland, to maintain national independence and territorial integrity." Afterwards, a woman in peasant dress placed the red and blue presidential sash over Aristide's shoulder.

The ceremony, carried live by state-run television, began about an hour late. Father Aristide, in a light-coloured business suit, arrived at the palace in a white sedan. Well-wishers chanted and sang. He was escorted into the chamber by soldiers in dress uniform and civilian security guards. Before the swearing-in, Jean-Robert Sabalat, president of the independent Electoral Council, thanked foreign governments and others who helped the council "organise and carry through the first free and democratic elections in Haiti".

The senate president, Eudrice Raymond, wearing the traditional black hat of his office, said the date of the inauguration was doubly symbolic. "The 7th of February was the ouster of the repressive and archaic system which for two centuries prevented the flowering of Haiti," he said. "February 7, 1991, is the beginning of a new era setting up a new political structure that will guarantee a better future."

Before the inauguration, volunteers of all ages swept the streets, filled potholes and painted bright murals. The clean-up is in line with Father Aristide's campaign platform to cleanse the nation of corruption, violence and poverty.

Father Aristide's inauguration falls on the fifth anniversary of the fall of "Baby Doc" Jean-Claude Duvalier, who was toppled in a popular uprising on February 7, 1986. His flight into French exile ended a brutal family reign begun by his father, the late "Papa Doc" Francois Duvalier in 1957. Father Aristide, who campaigned on an anti-Duvalierist platform, was elected on December 16 by a two-thirds majority in the Caribbean nation's first fully democratic election.

Austrian business sends the cavalry into Croatia

From RICHARD BASSETT
IN ZAGREB

ALONG Zagreb's finest boulevard, the palatial offices which used to housed the British consulate-general now fly the Austrian flag.

When the Foreign Office closed down the consulate in Croatia a few years ago, shortsightedly, many Croats believe, the premises were immediately taken over by the Austrian trade mission. While British diplomats in Yugoslavia's capital, Belgrade, lament the absence of the regular reports that a career officer in Zagreb would provide, Austrian businessmen are rapidly establishing a presence throughout Croatia, preparing for the expected break-up of Yugoslavia.

"We are very grateful that the British moved out and we can enjoy such comfortable and prestigious offices," a member of the trade mission said. Austria sees an opportunity this year to exploit the Yugoslav turmoil to recover former influence over of Slovenia and Croatia. Both were part of the Austrian empire for centuries and German remains the most widely spoken second language in both republics.

Austrians, many of whom have distant family ties with people in the republics, understand Croats and Slovenes. They still refer to Ljubljana by its old German name of Laibach and to Zagreb by its old name of Agram.

As Slovenes and Croats discover their credentials as central Europeans, denied to them by four decades of communist propaganda linking them to Belgrade, sympathy towards Austrians is growing. "The Austrians may be sharp businessmen but they are fellow Europeans, unlike the Balkan Serbs," said Tom Basic, who runs an import-export company in Zagreb.

Unchecked by European Community directives which prevent formal recognition of Croatia or Slovenia, the Austrians have accorded leaders of both republics the protocol due to heads of state when they have visited Vienna. Austrian diplomats expect to downgrade their embassy in Belgrade into a consulate-general and upgrade their consulates in Zagreb and Ljubljana before the end of the year.

Italy, another country with strong historical ties with Croatia and Slovenia, is eager to follow suit but remains obliged to follow EC policy towards Yugoslavia which, while rejecting military intervention as a means of holding the multi-ethnic country together, remains committed to a single state.

Unlike the Austrians, however, the Italians appear to have been supplying Croatia with arms in recent months. Special units of the Croatian police are armed with the latest Italian Beretta automatic pistols.

Zagreb's rich cultural heritage, in particular its opera house and art galleries, are being marketed extensively for Austrian consumption. While Yugoslavia's instability is damaging federal tourist enterprises, discreet lobbying by Zagreb in Austrian cities is attracting an increasing number of wealthy guests prepared to pay large amounts to discover uncharted central European attractions. Plaques are appearing on doorways indicating the establishment of new companies with Austrian capital, and with offices in Vienna or Graz.

This week, an Austrian company's public relations officials arrived in Zagreb's largest hotel dressed in old imperial Austrian cavalry uniforms. They had judged their business partners' mood well. Nothing appeals more to the Croats than the history of which they have long been deprived.

Janet Daley argues against current-affairs lessons that are not based on knowledge

Schools of uninformed thought

Having gone to school in America, I am rather bemused by the dispute among parents and educationists in Britain over schools' treatment of the Gulf war. Teachers' unions even feel that guidelines on "balance" are necessary. British people of my age cannot recall this sort of controversy over the Suez crisis during their school years. The problem arises because imparting knowledge itself is no longer the main aim of schooling.

There is argument, too, over whether history should include current affairs. In my day, American schools were in no doubt that history and civics, as it was called, were two quite different subjects, civics giving you a knowledge of national institutions and practical politics. Both had strict ground rules for objective teaching. (Our teachers went to great lengths to avoid revealing their own political preferences.) In civics lessons, we used the same discipline as we did for other subjects.

Whether we were researching the bills coming before our state legislature or staging debates on social issues, we were urged to take up positions purely for the sake of argument. It was to help us develop into informed citizens that we were encouraged to play devil's advocate and explore all possible positions. We might have been arguing about the merits (or demerits) of the political party favoured by our parents or about a civil rights demonstration in which we had taken part. But this was school, and the point of these activities was to instil in us the principles of political debate in a free society.

Because civics was a respectable school discipline, it had academic standards. Half-baked opinion was not to be confused with sound argument; allegations had to be substantiated by evidence; vague moral inclinations were no substitute for plausible proposals.

All that, of course, was 30 years ago. American schools have changed a lot since then. Group therapy has now become more of a goal in the classroom than inculcating abstract principles. And it is this idea of education as social therapy that British schools have adopted in the place of didactic instruction. The "instructional" model is now (as a glance at the *Times Educational Supplement* will make clear) derided. It has been replaced by project-based teaching that dissolves the boundaries of individual disciplines.

Along with the old disciplines have gone the critical frameworks that underpinned them. The school curriculum now revolves around topics the educational value of which is measured by their relevance. What you consider relevant to a child's (or a society's) needs depends, of course, on your own predispositions or those of educational fashion. That it might be worthwhile for children to have some conception of the value of things with no immediate relevance has no place in the new approach.

In a recent television interview, a primary head teacher, commenting on schools' ability to deal with contemporary issues, said that primary school geography teaching now concerned itself with the topics of pollution and third-world poverty — the inter-disciplinary study of which sounds like a recipe for a muddle of half-understood economics with political ideology and media obsessions.

A Surrey education inspector, quoted in *The Times Educational Supplement* last week, cited as appropriate primary-class projects for economics and business studies "Why some people like pensioners do not have much money" and "Why some people have to live in cardboard boxes". The inspector showed no awareness of the tendentiousness of these suggestions, or even of why tendentiousness was to be avoided in education.

If relevance and personal expression are to be the priorities in the classroom, discussion of the war will hardly enlarge children's knowledge of the historical background. They will never learn the facts that would help them to judge this and any future Middle East conflict.

Instead, teachers encourage formless discussion which revolves around the children's own confused feelings. What is to be expected (apart from the clashing of home-grown prejudices) from the exercise of asking a class of eight-year-olds whether they support the war, and then comparing the responses of the Muslim and non-Muslim children? Primary school teachers with whom I have discussed this technique believe it to be helpful to the children: bringing their differences into the open is said to relieve their anxieties and help them understand each other.

What has happened to the idea (which everyone in education once saw themselves as fostering) that before you could express an informed opinion on something, you had to be knowledgeable about it, and that uninformed opinion was, at best, a waste of time, at worst positively dangerous? School used not to be an arena for ill-informed personal feelings, but a place where children absorbed the knowledge that could sustain rational argument.

Once you have discredited the idea of transmitting knowledge, dismantled the framework of disciplined enquiry and dismissed the need for valid argument, the educational resources that remain for dealing with a divisive crisis look pretty thin. My old civics teacher would have been reduced to despair.

A peril that haunts every leader

Daniel Johnson on the political assassin's long place in history

Dictionaries of quotations will record John Major's heroically phlegmatic reaction to the attempt upon his life and that of his cabinet colleagues yesterday: "I think we had better start again somewhere else." There is no precedent for this baptism of fire, which has obliged this least experienced of recent prime ministers to endure first a war and now an attempted assassination within three months of attaining office. But Mr Major is not the first politician to have lived in the proximity of death. How have earlier leaders coped with the psychological burden?

Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* is the starting point for any consideration of the problem. Security was not neglected in Rome — hence the political role of the Praetorian Guard — but among his peers the great Julius evidently felt at ease. Only the "lean and hungry" Cassius disturbed him. This obligation to trust those close at hand remains today: in civilised societies leaders must trust their colleagues, and only those whose treatment of their associates has been abysmal — Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin and Saddam Hussein spring to mind — normally have reason to fear death from that quarter.

Shakespeare's Julius Caesar deals with the manifest threat of assassination by repressing fear. Most politicians today have this avenue closed to them: the appurtenances of security accompany them from the moment they assume responsibility, and depart only when they die. Salman Rushdie's readiness to come to terms bears eloquent testimony to the crushing impact of such incessant security on a man whose life as a writer had not prepared him for the additional loneliness imposed by the permanent presence of detectives and the accompanying loss of privacy.

Of course some rulers have responded to their position as sitting ducks with wry humour. Kaiser Wilhelm I, the octogenarian German emperor, lost most of his blood when he was shot by a deranged anarchist, Dr Nobiling (the second attempt on his long life). The old boy lived for several more years, and is said to have praised his would-be assassin: "The only doctor who really knew what I needed: a good blood-letting!" Bismarck, who escaped scot free, wholeheartedly agreed.

The Kaiser's "phlebotomy" was only one incident in a whole spate of attacks which make the 1880s a watershed in the history of assassination. Russia, America, Ireland and many other countries were shaken by this wave, and ever since then the messianic ideologies of left and right have made terrorism their peculiar weapon.

The murder of politicians by trained assassins hoping to further a political cause must, of course, be distinguished from the attempt to kill the opposing commander in the midst of battle, which traditional rules of war allow. Nelson famously suffered this fate at the hands of French sharpshooters, though Napoleon seems to have enjoyed a kind of charmed existence — perhaps because his opponents saw him as, in Clausewitz's words, "the god of war himself".

Yet exceptions are legion. Wallenstein, the overmighty imperial general during the Thirty Years' War, was butchered in cold blood by Irish mercenaries at his master's behest. Rommel was similarly forced to commit suicide by Hitler.

But the general or admiral who routinely risks death, whether glorious or ignominious, does so with the moral support of the accumulated wisdom and training of his profession. Royal dynasties likewise have their traditional mode of confronting mortal danger: from Charles I to George VI, an unbroken tradition has equipped British monarchs to face the possibility of violent death. A democratically elected prime minister is necessarily less well prepared. Security, when taken to extremes, can be a substitute for the self-assurance that stems from breeding.

Since the advent of modern terrorism turned security into a growth industry, there have been ideologically-motivated attempts, especially in countries which profess non-violence as a principle, to flout the new constraints. Mahatma Gandhi's death was a consequence of such populist defiance; so, perhaps, was Indira Gandhi's murder two generations later. In the smaller European countries, indifference to personal safety was common until quite recently: Garret FitzGerald, the former Irish premier, was notoriously disdainful of security while in office. But such "little European" insouciance has vanished since Olaf Palme's murder.

Even more than America, Germany has lately suffered a disturbing series of assassination attempts: the head of Deutsche Bank was murdered, the federal interior minister was left paralysed from the waist down, and the leader of the opposition's jugular was narrowly missed. Where the stakes are high, blood flows readily. The German political class is now warier than ever of contact with the public. Terrorist gangs are less feared than lonely fanatics or psychopaths.

In Britain, which has endured the most sustained terrorist campaign of modern times, senior politicians talk about the possibility of assassination rather as agnostics talk about the Devil. Yet the direct threat to their own lives and — especially since the Brighton bomb — those of their immediate relatives, has added an existential anxiety to the exigencies of office.

Mrs Thatcher, above all, bears the invisible scars of this secret war. A number of her friends have died horribly or been mutilated; she herself escaped death by the narrowest of margins. Her public resilience, which masks unfathomable private grief, should not deceive anyone with a little imagination.

John Major now joins the select club of politicians who have come close to death and survived. Not physical pain — a serious accident had long ago inured him to that — but mental anguish is the danger to which this sensitive family man might prove vulnerable. So far he has acquitted himself with unassuming grandeur.

At the double, and be sharp about it

Philip Howard

General Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf speaks: "It's scenario-dependent." I take this to be a polite way of saying: "Wait and see."

War produces 77 types of ambiguity, as so-called "simple soldiers" are exposed to the so-called "relentless spotlight" of the media. The Duke of Wellington would never have put up with such civilian intrusion, but then, he did not have to fight his wars under mass democracies, whipped on by ambitious politicians, themselves whipped on by television. So the Gulf war has reinforced the ambiguity euphemistic, as in "friendly fire", to describe being shot up by one's own side by mistake, and to "degrade" as a cool way to describe grinding down by bombardment.

We have invented a new ambiguity phonetic, with the American pronunciation of missile, in a way that must alarm Roman Catholics by its equivocation. Pointing to a chart the other day, Stormin' Norman drew our attention to an offshore "boo-ie" that marked an Iraqi minefield for unwary British, whose pronunciation of buoy is already a phonetic ambiguity. The Pentagon official who said, "The ante is upped", was ambiguous only to those prudent folk who do not play poker.

Ambiguity lies at the heart of language and of the premier division of language, poetry. Let us not confuse ambiguity with the fashionable word of psychobabble and Lit Crit, ambivalent. Ambivalence is a concept introduced by the early psychologists to describe the co-existence in one person of contradictory emotions or attitudes (such as love and hatred) towards a person or thing.

It was not as original as they supposed. *Odi et amo* was written by a poet 20 centuries before Freud: I hate and I love. And if you ask me how, I do not know: I only feel it, and I'm torn in two. All that ambivalent means is having equal strength, usually in contrary or parallel directions. Typewriters and word-processors should be programmed to set off a little alarm when the characters of ambivalent are typed, and to flash up the question: "Is this exactly what you mean, or are you simply showing off?"

Ambiguous is the older word. It means having a double meaning, shifting, uncertain, and it comes ultimately from the Latin verb meaning to go round. When the word is used properly, ambiguous means that a word or expression has two (or more) different meanings. It should not be used to mean vague.

Bald is a vague epithet (how many hairs can a bald man have and still be considered bald?), but it is not ambiguous. Ambiguous applies to terms; vagueness to concepts. If you are going to claim that a word is ambiguous, you ought to be able to specify the differences in meaning that you have in mind. Funny is ambiguous. It can be funny ha-ha, or funny peculiar.

"Bank" can mean the raised ridge that keeps a river within bounds and stops it spilling over into the surrounding fields, or a tier of oars in an ancient rowing-boat, or the place you go to cash cheques and whence you receive wounding letters about your overdraft. In the view of philologists, these three banks are three separate words, because their etymologies are different.

> ‘Ambiguity is inherent in any language more complex than grunts, and even a grunt can be ambiguous’

Such words, especially when treated as one word with different meanings, are called equivocal. "How absolute the knave is! We must speak by the card, or equivocation will undo us."

Systematic ambiguity occurs when a word has the same sort of meaning when applied to another kind of thing. An example, given by Aristotle, who first drew attention to this vexing phenomenon in words, concerns the word "healthy". Both places and people can be healthy. Bury St Edmunds may (or may not) be more healthy than Bury in Lancashire. Mr Longbottom may (or may not) be more healthy than Mrs Longbottom. But it makes no sense to ask whether Bury St Edmunds is more healthy than Mrs Longbottom — except in poetry, where ambiguity is a tool of the trade.

Healthy is an ambiguous word, which has senses that differ but are related. A healthy body is a flourishing one, while a healthy climate produces or preserves health, and a healthy complexion is a sign of it. Healthy is said to have a focal meaning. Its ambiguous senses focus on one dominant sense.

Words like "big" are ambiguous, because it makes a difference to know what standards we are applying. A big mouse is not a big animal, and is different in category from a big moose, unless you are talking to an Aberdonian. In wartime, words like "battle" suffer from this type of ambiguity. A battle can range in bigness from the "battle for Khafji" to Armageddon.

Phrases or sentences can be ambiguous, although none of the words in them is so. For example, in a "little girl's camp" we cannot tell whether the camp or the girls are little. They have just put up a sign in Holland Park: "Dogs must be kept on leads on this road." Well, I see what they have in mind, but the sign could mean that each dog must have several leads attached to it — a prudent precaution with some undisciplined hounds I meet at crack of dawn in the park. This kind of syntactical ambiguity is called an amphiboly, a sentence whose meaning is doubtful or confusing.

"He rode a horse with a muzzle on his mouth" conjures up two different pictures. There is an ambiguity in the construction of the sentence. "Save rags and waste paper" can be understood two ways. It is an amphiboly, amphiboly, a most ingenious amphiboly. And so was the notorious headline in *The Times* during the second world war: "Fifth Army push bottles up Germans".

Ambiguity is inherent in any language more complex than grunts; and even a grunt can be ambiguous. It is the source of poetry and philosophy as well as of propaganda and deception. War brings new ambiguities to our attention. But we should always be on red alert for the stuff when reading or writing, listening or speaking.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

It is September 1940, and a man is standing on the very cusp of post-lapsarian France. Indeed, it is possible that his left foot stands on the occupied north, his right on the Vichy south, but what he is standing on is not as important as what he is standing in. Because we are at Pauillac, just north of Bordeaux and both the epicentre and apogee (if the purer geometricians among you will grant me that licence) of the trade to which the city gives its name. It will not, therefore, surprise you to hear that the man is standing in a vat. For the 1940 *vendange* has just been gathered, and he is poised to jump about on it.

It has been a funny old year for him. When the plump items beneath his toes were naught but a pip in their fathers' eye, the first of that sequence of events was precipitated which was so rapidly to bring Rommel and Guderian and all their jolly *Kameradschaft* blitzing down the road towards him, casting (for he is a practical fellow) grave doubts on the imminent vintage: since, when it comes to pressing grapes, nothing can hold a candle to a Tiger tank.

He need not have worried: connoisseurs all, the German high command was never going to shell claret. They were not going to churn up Lafite, nor have their Stukas dive onto Margaux, for there is no point whatever in occupying France if there's nothing to drink but parachuted Riesling. That is why they hit the brakes just outside Pauillac on that June afternoon, and sensibly waited for Pétain to chuck in the towel.

Let us now leave our hero there, with his trousers rolled up, and move the scene half a century forward to January 1991 and the basement of Selfridge's. For it is here that Sears plc is holding a charity auction of rare wines, to which they have invited, among others, a fool and his money. Much comes and goes under the gavel, wondrous '61s and '66s and '70s, calculated to so slip down a treat that choking on the price would instantly be forgotten, but the fool does not bid for any of these. He is waiting for a bottle of Château Duhart-Milon to come up, a fourth-growth Pauillac of which he knows nothing except that its label bears the date 1940. The fool has never drunk a 1940 claret, and when the moment comes, he bids with such sociopathic ferocity that underbidders end up counting themselves fortunate not to have been bigger fools than he is, for it is a long way home in the dark, if you are carrying a bottle of which you have deprived a madman.

Not that your homeward worries are any the less if you are the madman. You begin to wonder how you will ever get around to drinking something this rare, not to say this expensive. Old wines are not like other antiques: you do not bring home a T'ang horse and hit it with a hammer, you do not run back from Sotheby's with a Chippendale chair and immediately bung it on the fire, but you cannot enjoy an antique wine unless you destroy it. And how, precisely, will you go about destroying it? What meal could match it? Which of your friends will you invite to share it, which will you offend by not inviting?

But most to the point, what do you do when you get it home, rush to your wine-books, and discover that the authorities speak with one voice on the 1940 vintage, which is that "wartime circumstances made it untrustworthy"? Well, if you have the presumption, you ring Jancis Robinson in the hope that she will say it is not untrustworthy at all, but Jancis too says it could be great, it could be terrible; either way, drink it quickly after you've opened it, because it could die within a few minutes, and you ring off, and you look at it. Not going to be much of an evening, ask three friends over for five minutes, pull the cork, get that down you, what do you think, great, terrible, good-night.

Which is why a month has now passed, with the cork still in. During which time I have given more thought to the untrustworthiness of the 1940 vintage. Might it possibly depend on whether the bloke standing in the Duhart-Milon vat was a patriot or a collaborator? If you thought that what you were about to tread was going to end up lubricating the Nazi gullet, would you try to ensure that it was as delicious as possible, or would you, how shall I put it, take advantage of the fact that you were about to be waist-deep in what the bastard wouldn't see until his batman sloshed it into the regimental crystal?

When Thatcher got a rocket

Yesterday's mortar attack induced a certain amount of eating of words — but mostly a stunned silence — among those who had previously deprecated the 10 ft security gates at the end of Downing Street. When they were installed in 1989, Mrs Thatcher was subjected to a barrage of criticism, mostly from Labour but also, in some instances, from her own side.

She was accused of harbouring delusions of presidential grandeur at taxpayers' expense. Dennis Skinner likened Downing Street to "the fortress of Madame Ceausescu". Neil Kinnock pledged that when he made it to Number Ten, the gates would be removed. And Lord St John of Fawsley, a former cabinet minister, declared: "The prime minister is not the head of state, and to treat her as though she were would raise public criticism and hostility."

The attacks deeply wounded Mrs Thatcher, not merely because they were so personal, but because the decision to erect the gates was taken purely on the advice of the security services, who, rightly it now seems, were becoming increasingly concerned for the prime minister's safety.

Most of her critics were understandably silent yesterday. Asked if a Labour prime minister would now want the gates to remain, a Kinnock aide said: "At the moment we will be saying nothing." Dennis Skinner said: "It was impossible to get into Downing Street before the gates were installed. The police would stop you." Even if you were a determined terrorist? "I don't want to comment," he replied — surely the first time the Beast of Bolsover has been lost for words, and a sign of the shock pervading all sides at Westminster.

THE TIMES DIARY

Not quite universal

British troops in the Gulf will not now have the opportunity of a little spiritual uplift from the Catholic weekly *The Universe*. A plan to send a thousand copies of today's issue has been dropped on the advice of the MoD, for fear of offending Muslim Saudi Arabia. Ann Knowles, the editor, had made elaborate arrangements to have the papers air-freighted to the front line following an encouraging response from readers who supplied the names of soldiers. Paulinus Barnes, the news editor, says the paper is disappointed by the MoD advice. "We are trying to encourage cooperation between Christians and Muslims in Britain to ensure that the war does not come between them."

For want of a coin

Garret FitzGerald offered an insight this week into how Lord King managed to turn British Airways from loss into profit — but almost caused a rift in Anglo-Irish relations in the process. While Irish prime minister in the mid-1980s, FitzGerald was flying from Washington to London when he received a radio message that the terrorist Dominic McGlinchy had been arrested in the Republic. To sanction extradition proceedings, FitzGerald was asked to contact his office in Dublin as soon as he landed.

At Heathrow he hurried to the first available telephone, but encountered an immovable object in the shape of a British Airways jobsworth. "She would not let me use the telephone unless I paid ten pence," says FitzGerald. "I searched my pockets but had no change. I told her I was the prime minister of the Irish Republic, but she insisted it made no difference and that I pay before using the telephone."

Overnight sensation

A neglected manuscript from the library at Southampton University has been dusted off and turned into a fine, handprinted autobiography of Luke Hansard, the founder of parliamentary reporting.

Consisting of extensive notes written as a Christmas present for his sons, the work was never published, but was copied at the turn of the century by one of Hansard's descendants. That manuscript disappeared until its discovery two years ago by Simon Lawrence, owner of Fleece Press in Wakefield, who was researching the history of diaries. The result is *Luke Hansard: An Autobiography*, a 160-page volume to be launched today by the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, in a limited edition of 250 copies.

The book records a late-night visit during the French Revolution from William Pitt, demanding papers on his desk the following morning. More than 60 of Hansard's printers worked through the night to meet the prime ministerial edict, so establishing the tradition of overnight printing. Since then, scarcely a deadline has been missed.

All-rounder

Undaunted by the furore at the Royal Opera House over recently announced redundancies, Jeremy Isaacs, the general director, is insisting that rumours of his own departure are unfounded. Formerly boss of Channel 4, he has dismissed stories that his involvement in a 26-part TV series on 20th-century world history means that he will shortly return to television.

"I shall be advising, part-time, on the outline of the series, but I want to make it clear that I shall be remaining at the Royal Opera House and nothing will interfere with my full-time work," he says.

Indeed, his workload has increased. Despite a petition carrying 500 signatures — including those of the ROH music director, Bernard Haitink, and the principal conductor, Jeffrey Tate — Isaacs insists that Ewen Balfour, the now redundant director of public affairs, will not be reinstated. Isaacs will handle press queries himself, which he did yesterday with charm and courtesy — though it had taken three days to get hold of him.

- *Enmity at Friends of the Earth. The Hong Kong branch has been expelled because of its close relationship with Shell, which pays for its educational programmes and finances its magazine in return for advertising space. The rest of FoE is involved in a worldwide campaign against Shell over its production of pesticides alleged to contaminate the environment.*

RESISTING TERRORISM

The first maxim in any conflict is never to permit the enemy to dictate the course of battle. The mortar attack on Downing Street yesterday was an attempt at precisely such dictation. It was not a random incident of vicarious terror, but an integral part of a campaign to pervert democracy by terrorising public opinion to achieve a political goal. The attack has been claimed by the Provisional IRA. It could as well have been by agents of President Saddam Hussein, who recently threatened just such an outrage.

A terrorist attack is not over when a mortar lands, a bomb goes off or a bullet strikes home. It is over only when those at whom it is directed decide how to react, with common sense and fortitude — or with terror. Only if they choose the latter can the attack be called a success. Many in the West reacted to Saddam's threats of terrorism by instantly capitulating. They have permitted him to alter their lives and social behaviour, generating a neurosis of doubt as to whether the war is worth fighting, whether beating a distant dictator merits the dislocation, the recession, the fear. Such doubt is the soil in which defeatism grows. It is the greatest single threat to victory.

Modern wars are fought on many fronts. They depend on an interaction of political forces in which the survival of individuals and states is rarely at issue and in which public opinion is a crucial component. For that reason, modern wars are rarely less than "total" in reach. Thus is defeat on the battlefield turned to victory in the mind of the public. Thus it has been from the first airline hijack in the Middle East to last week's Khafji incident.

Enemies of any state can turn to the exploitation of public fear. They seek to undermine the sense of security which modern communities have come to expect as part of increased peace and prosperity. Once damaged, insecurity can feed on itself through the media and the over-reaction of politicians and policemen, virtually unaided by the terrorist. Killers can strike when and how they choose. Clearly the security services must review their response to every incident and remind the public to be ever more alert. But the ability of a mortar to penetrate Downing Street's airspace has never been in doubt.

Nobody can make any town, street or building totally secure. Short of declaring whole neighbourhoods "secure zones", as in Belfast, short of suspending the democratic life of a country and thus fulfilling the terrorist's fondest dream, such incidents are always a possibility. Those directed affected deserve every sympathy. But the attacks themselves must be treated as a nuisance, a sideshow, not as a "threat to civilisation".

There will be more such attacks, whether from the IRA or from Saddam Hussein. They are the unavoidable response of an embattled and desperate enemy. They bring home to everybody the horror of war, the physical brutalism of armed conflict to combatant and non-combatant alike. They remind us that fighting has not changed its impact on the human mind and body since earliest times. But the increased risk of terrorism to those living in and visiting London is statistically insignificant. There is no reason for anybody to feel a greater sense of personal danger. There is every reason for life and work to continue as normal. Any other response is pure gain to the IRA, and to all other perpetrators of terror.

AFTER THE POLL TAX: 2

To a Conservative MP in a marginal seat, there is one obvious way of solving Michael Heseltine's poll tax conundrum. It is the solution now proposed by 70 MPs in an early day motion: transfer the cost of education wholescale to central government. Community charge bills would plummet, in some areas even vanishing altogether. For good measure, an extravagant and often politically charged area of local government would be eliminated.

Mr Heseltine should reject this route out of hand. In the first place, it is obvious that money will still have to be found to run the education service and that it would have to come from central taxation. The immediate effect would be to raise income tax by 4p in the pound or VAT by 5 per cent. There is no such thing as a free school system. Transfer would remove a huge item of tax revenue and limit the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre in any other tax reform.

A halfway house suggests transferring the teachers' paybill to the Treasury, making teachers, like social security officers and civil servants, direct employees of the state. The £8 billion bill would imply a 2p increase in income tax or 2.5 per cent on VAT. At the same time, the local flexibility in pay and employment that ministers are trying to encourage throughout the public sector would be sacrificed. Another huge group of workers would be parked each year on the Treasury's lawn, this time immovably so.

More serious and less often considered is the implication of such centralisation for education administration itself. The education ministry would need to spawn a huge new network of control, based on local authorities but with additional lines of reporting to Whitehall. The opted-out grant maintained schools are already imposing a burden on that government department. If the experience of hospitals and prisons is a guide, and it should be, Whitehall control will be more cumbersome and inefficient — and union dominated — than local democratic control.

Not since 1870 has central government taken responsibility for allocating money direct to all state schools. In the drafting of the 1944 act, which laid the foundations for today's system, local administration was taken for granted. Indeed, the accountability of local schools and their teachers to their neighbourhoods, as represented by the churches or the local councils, was seen as a virtue, not just a convenience. To turn the clock back 120 years for the party political gain of a few pounds off community charge bills would be absurd. All over Europe, most notably in France, there is a move towards decentralisation in education. Central bureaucracies are seen as rigid, inefficient and stifling of initiative in the management of institutions. As education secretary Kenneth Clarke said of his own department last year: "I am apprehensive about their ability to deal with leaking roofs and blocked drains in 25,000 establishments, not to mention Darren's handwriting and Cheryl's spelling problems."

There is certainly a case for reviewing the role of education authorities now that "local management of schools" is removing many of their administrative functions. Education offices could be smaller, returning their large teams of "advisers" and specialists to schools and classrooms. The delegation of budgetary power to schools, a good Tory innovation, should make the school system more responsive to the community in a wider sense than through the mechanism of local government alone.

More to the point, the transfer of education from local to central government would run counter to the philosophy which should inform Mr Heseltine's present post-poll tax review. This is that, unless there is an overriding reason for central taxation and administration, local services should be paid for and supplied locally, and those who supply them should be directly accountable to local voters. Education is the biggest local service. Almost everywhere, schools are the most important truly local institutions. For the state to nationalise them would be a travesty of everything this government was elected to achieve.

SQUARING SPEEDS

Increasing the speed of a vehicle from 70 to 80mph raises its kinetic energy by almost a third ($k = mv^2$). It is kinetic energy which determines both stopping distance and the damage done in a crash. Not many drivers know this, which is why most seem happy to agree with the police that the legal speed limit for cars on a motorway should be raised by 10mph. Every day on every motorway, motorists can be seen voting (to adapt Lenin) with their kinetic energy. Only occasionally do they rue it.

Last year the Association of Chief Police Officers advised traffic police not to stop car drivers whose only offence was to drive at a speed between 70 and 80mph, and to let off with a verbal warning those doing between 80 and 85. Having stated their preference for a higher limit, chief constables have raised the limit themselves without reference to Parliament. Tempting though it may be to tidy this up by bringing law and police practice into line, if the legal limit were set at 80mph most drivers would then limit themselves to 90mph.

This is a curious collusion in law-breaking between private motorists and police. It has undoubtedly contributed to a more serious form of motorway anomy, speeding by heavy goods vehicles. If car drivers are allowed to steal 10mph, lorry drivers no doubt tell themselves, why not HGVs? But lorry drivers probably know even less Newtonian mechanics than chief police officers. Compared with a car, the kinetic energy of a loaded juggernaut is enormous. One of the worst experiences of motorway driving is the intimidating spectacle of a lorry in the mirror, following too close and going too fast.

Enforcement of limits on lorries simply by following them, clocking the speed and pulling them into the side is dangerous, the police have found, as there is no really safe way of making such a lorry stop nor a safe place for it to do so. Surveys of lorry speeds regularly reflect this sense of immunity. So the government announced yesterday that it has decided to require all new goods vehicles to be fitted with a mechanical speed limiter. The only fault in an otherwise timely decision is the speed limit chosen, 60mph. At that speed, a fully-loaded articulated truck is as formidable as a herd of elephants. In a collision with such monsters, mere cars do not stand a chance. A further 10mph reduction would reduce the energy of a lorry or coach by 30 per cent.

If one of the chief safety problems on motorways is the disparity in weight between cars and lorries, the same applies when the car is the heavier, as in collision with a human being. Safety again demands a reduction of the speed of the heavier body. The transport department is currently reviewing all speed limits. Its recommendations should include an assault on speeds in residential areas.

Where people and vehicles have to share circulation space, vehicle speeds need to be below the current 30mph limit. The bump-in-the-road, known as a sleeping policeman, would be an excellent enforcer of a 20mph limit. No residential side road should be without one, nor any village high street, however fast the ambitions of through traffic. No single measure would do more to make the lives of those who live in Britain's cities, towns and country villages more tolerable and safe.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Reassurance on treating Gulf injured

From Dr Howard Baderman

Sir, Having had more than 20 years' experience in managing hospital bed states and devising and implementing major incident procedures, I contend that the NHS will not be brought to its knees or into chaos within the first few days of receiving casualties from the Gulf, nor will NHS waiting lists automatically become grossly lengthened, nor shall we be faced with huge numbers of appalling injuries which are beyond our experience and expertise.

It is never easy to balance the needs of emergency admissions against those of waiting-list patients. Yet our hospitals do achieve this in the main and they cope, at the same time and sadly all too often in recent years, with major incidents which produce large numbers of casualties, without any warning. Many of these have multiple injuries and occupy beds for many weeks.

The longer lasting and more widespread problem that we often face is the steep rise in emergency admissions in winter, from influenza or other epidemics. Here too the hospitals cope, nor are waiting lists dramatically and permanently lengthened.

Many hospitals in all the country's 14 health regions will be used if necessary, each taking reasonable numbers of casualties from the Gulf, spreading the load and controlling the rate of admission day by day, in a way never possible with a local major incident or a winter epidemic. We have had almost two months to plan our response and organise our facilities. These are now well organised.

Every major hospital treats almost every day a whole range of injuries, including burns, and these are not intrinsically different from those we may receive from the Gulf. We will not have to treat injuries any more severe than those that were so successfully managed after the Kegworth air crash or the King's Cross fire. Casualties from the Gulf will be previously fit young men and women and they will have received skilled treatment from the army medical services.

Chemical warfare injuries have caused understandable concern but we now have much more information on the comprehensive protection that our troops are already being given and on the nature of the injuries that may be sustained and the straightforward medical and nursing procedures that are required to treat such injuries.

All this is not to underestimate the possible amount or duration of the additional work that we may have to do. It is important to put the facts of managing this situation in perspective.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD BADERMAN
(Consultant, Accident and
Emergency Department),
University College Hospital,
Gower Street, WC1.
February 5.

Americans abroad

From Mr Bedford Pace

Sir, Bernard Levin ("If it's the Gulf it must be Mexico", February 4) has missed an important reason for the current dearth of US visitors to London.

Unlike the British, who have to travel abroad for many of their holidays, particularly if they are looking for sun and sand or snow-covered mountains, Americans don't. Within his own country, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, the US holidaymaker can sample some of the best leisure holiday-spots in the world. For purely leisure-type holidays he really doesn't have to travel further afield. Why spend twice as much money to travel abroad to do something you can do at home?

If the British holidaymaker had such options within his own country, he too would not be travelling abroad for his holiday and would therefore be just as ignorant of international travel protocol (and geography) as Mr Levin accuses his US counterpart of being.

Okay, some Americans may have difficulty locating certain European or Asian capitals on a map: but then how many Brits does Mr Levin think could name the states that border the US state of Nebraska, for example?

Yours faithfully,
BEDFORD PACE,
One Mercer Avenue,
Hartsdale, New York 10530, USA.
February 4.

From Mrs Marilyn Branston

Sir, Britain has no need of enemies with bombs to keep American tourists away, so long as she has friends like Bernard Levin who can do the same job so effectively with a typewriter.

Yours sincerely,
MARILYN BRANSTON,
50 Holdenhurst Avenue,
Finchley, N12.
February 5.

Condemned to decay

From the Director of the Civic Trust

Sir, You are unquestionably right that the response to the English Heritage survey of listed historic buildings at risk ("Condemned to decay", leading article, January 30) must be a shift in government policy. But by implication at least, your prescription seems to reside primarily in the Department of the Environment and to depend on a redirection of grant to particular types of building already on the critical list.

Again that is unarguable; but simply to exclude cathedrals and stately homes from the grant regime and give owners "a kick in the pants" seems unlikely to achieve very much. The kick would be better directed towards the Treasury, not with the intention of pleading for more grant, although that would hardly be unimportant, but to seek a system of tax-based incentives that make the ownership and maintenance of a listed building affordable and pleasurable, rather than the burden it is now.

This means thinking about tax relief in both corporate and personal terms and linking the two, as happens in the United States. And if the property market's "love affair with antiquity" is to lead to marriage, one might do worse than make the interest on all loans for repair and maintenance tax deductable, and zero-rate all such work for purpose of VAT.

Only when people actually want to own a listed building will we ever really reduce the decay.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BRADSHAW, Director,
Civic Trust,
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1.
February 6.

Education cuts

From the General Secretary of Natfhe

Sir, Your report (January 30) of the pressures for cost cutting in polytechnics and other higher education colleges illustrates succinctly the threat to quality education posed by government funding policies.

As the proportion of students not centrally-funded ("fees-only" students) continues to rise, so the amount of money available for each enrolled student continues to decline. Funding per PCFC (Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council) student for the current academic year was £3,788 (much less than for every university student). Spread the funding across actual students enrolled and the figure drops to £3,405 (a gap of £383 as opposed to £289 last year).

The trend towards more fees-only students looks set to continue. In that case the unit of resource will be increasingly depressed. What the government describes as "efficiency gains" will rapidly turn into "quality losses" unless adequate funds are made available.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFF WOOLF,
General Secretary,
National Association of Teachers
in Further and Higher Education,
27 Britannia Street, WC1.
February 1.

Books blight

From Miss Glenis Johnson

Sir, I find it highly indicative of the new national curriculum planning techniques to find that some of the books listed as being required for level three reading tests in two to three months time are out of print. Not even the Department of Education knows how many.

The planners obviously do not take all *their* paperwork home as we teachers are doing, to check and double check.

Yours etc.,
GLENIS JOHNSON,
61 North Albert Street,
Fleetwood, Lancashire.
February 7.

Curriculum choice

From Mrs Alison Willcocks

Sir, The comments of Mr Stratford (February 4) lamenting the secretary of state's defeatism over the matter of curriculum breadth must have struck chords of agreement in many schools. Not those perhaps which assume that "choice" is all, but certainly those such as mine which have been striving in recent months to devise curricula of breadth and balance in line with the original philosophy of the national curriculum.

History *or* geography? Art *or* design? These subjects are neither equivalent nor are they acceptable alternatives to each other. Far from being national, the principle of breadth now appears to have become purely notional.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON WILLCOCKS
(Deputy Head),
Bedales School,
Petersfield, Hampshire.
February 5.

Life sentences

From Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, Ms Vivien Stern ("Keep life sentences only for the few", February 4) was incorrect in saying Lord Parker of Waddington's committee-stage amendment on the Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Bill in 1965 to give judges unfettered discretion in sentencing those convicted of murder was supported "by all the law lords".

It was passed by only 80 votes to 78. Eleven of the peers who held high judicial office — some of them had never served as judges of the Queen's Bench Division — voted in favour. There was one exception: the Lord Chancellor, Lord Gardiner, a life-long and deeply committed abolitionist. His opposition to a discretionary life sentence for murder reflected the Labour government policy, which favoured a compromise of investing the court with the power to recommend a minimum period of time which the convicted murderer should serve in custody.

That provision, which was introduced into the legislation by an amendment to the 1965 Bill and accepted by Lord Parker, has been little used by trial judges. In any event the minimum-recommendation provision was effectively superseded by the introduction of the parole system in the Criminal Justice Act 1967.

Ms Stern goes on to state that Lord Lane's support for a discretionary sentence of life imprisonment for murder is shared by "12 out of 19 judges". It would be preferable to canvass the opinions of some threescore or more of the High Court judges who sit in the Queen's Bench Division, regularly trying homicide cases. It is my guess that a majority of them would support the change in the law.

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
2 Ripplevale Grove, N1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Tenure tasks for new archbishop

From Mr Douglas Brown

Sir, In your editorial, "Cuckoos in the close" (February 2) you suggest that the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, might make a worthwhile start by announcing that the system of freehold tenure for Church of England clergy will be abolished.

An Archbishop of Canterbury has no authority to do anything of the sort. It is up to the General Synod. All Dr Carey can do is to encourage the synod in a direction that, as last week's debate showed, it is already set on taking.

Even so, Parliament will have the last word. Dr Carey, as you suggest, will have a chance to set out a reforming manifesto at his enthronement. Would not the chances of this coming to fruition be strengthened if parliamentary interference in so much of the business of the Church were ended, to say nothing of the state appointment of senior clergy?

Should not the first task of a reforming archbishop, then, be efforts towards unloosening the Church-State shackles?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS BROWN,
Green Cottage, The Hill,
Polstead, nr Colchester, Essex.
February 2.

From the Reverend F. R. Dexter

Sir, There is no good reason why regular appraisal should be limited to those who hold high ecclesiastical office, as your leading article suggests. Properly used, appraisal should be part of the continuing formation of all clergy. However, the rather heavy-handed ideas which you propound suggest that appraisal is only concerned with removing difficult or ineffective clergy from office. If it is to win general support in the Church, appraisal must be seen and promoted in a far more positive way.

I believe that most clergy would be happy to see the abolition of the parson's freehold, but not if it is associated with a threatening procedure which would be perceived as solely for dealing with the problem cases.

Linked to work consultancy, appraisal for all clergy must be part of a positive process of ministry development in which the gifts of a particular minister are developed, needs analysed, continuing education undertaken, and indeed failures acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,
F. R. DEXTER,
The Vicarage, St George's Close,
Newcastle upon Tyne 2.
February 4.

From the Reverend C. Fenton

Sir, The news that the Church of England clergy's "right to a job for life" is to be reviewed (your General Synod report, January 31) is as welcome as the reminder that one of the tasks the incoming Archbishop of Canterbury has set himself is the raising of professional standards of the clergy.

There are, however, implications in both aspirations that need to be clearly understood. I understand by the term "professional", for instance, a person who has qualified to do the work he is engaged in; he or she is properly paid to do that work and, where necessary, properly supported and supervised in it.

Finally, there is a clear job description and contract which enables the clergyman or woman to do their job, to have some idea as to how they are performing, and to know when they have done it.

With such safeguard there would, of course, be no need for the parson's freehold. Without it, the dismantling of what (I think) many clergy regard as a minimum if rather unpalatable safeguard to their and their family's livelihood would be disastrous.

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER FENTON
(Director),
The Saint Anne's Centre,
Under Down, Ledbury,
Herefordshire.

Tribute to Runcie

From Mr Richard S. Rowntree

Sir, Your tribute to Dr Runcie on his retirement as Archbishop of Canterbury (leading article, January 31) must have been appreciated by many of your readers. As one such, I was especially grateful for your recognition of the moral courage he exercised in the direction of his leadership and of the toll that this must have demanded of him.

Although maintaining the unity of the Anglican communion must rightly have been a major priority for him, those of us who do not belong to that communion can recognise his prime concern as Archbishop of Canterbury as having been the health of Christianity as a whole. It is in this respect that your assessment of Dr Runcie as embodying "the agony of honest doubt, honestly declared" is so pertinent.

The widest perception attainable by mortal beings is that of God as constituting both the ultimate reality and the final mystery. Thus fundamentalism (in the popular understanding of the word) is the greatest disaster in that it leads to people assuming, sometimes in misguided good faith, a role that can never be theirs.

Dr Runcie has demonstrated that valid faith needs to contain an element of positive doubt and perhaps for this reason future historians may recognise him as an outstanding Christian leader at a time when fundamentalist religious assumptions were a major factor in the disease of the world.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD S. ROWNTREE,
Kingthorpe House,
Pickering,
North Yorkshire.
February 1.

Interest-rate swaps

From Mr Alan Montagu

Sir, No reputations have emerged enhanced from the legal quagmire surrounding local authorities' powers to undertake interest-rate swaps, least of all those of the government (for their insistence on protracting the outcome by refusing to acknowledge the inadequacies of existing statute to address an existing uncertainty) and the judiciary (under the apparent illusion that all swaps are driven by a blind gambling instinct).

The need for legislative amendment nevertheless remains acute and should be taken as an opportunity to disentangle the residual mess. An elegant solution would be to empower local authorities to honour past contracts entered into in good faith, without inferring any legal obligation for them to do so, at the same time statutorily protecting councils and their officers from further legal proceedings.

Many local authorities would welcome such an ability, while the banks involved should be content with the prospect of some recovery from authorities wishing to preserve their reputations in the City as honourable counter-parties. The secretary of state could limit the amount recoverable by any local authority from an increase in the community charge to a maximum amount per capita. No party would thus be seen to have been bailed out.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN MONTAGU,
30 Cavendish Gardens,
Trouville Road, SW4.
January 30.

Foreign names

From Mr R. V. Taylor

Sir, While applauding Philip Howard's defence of the exonym ("Say Naples and defy", February 1), one exception springs to mind. Now that we are taught to pronounce Kabul with the stress on the first syllable, I am delighted to find that Kipling's "Ford o' Kabul River" does scan after all.

Yours sincerely,
R. V. TAYLOR,
14 Waxes Close,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.
February 1.

Tea-time carnage

From Mr Arnold Thomson

Sir, Your delightful picture of a barn owl (January 24, later editions) appeared just one day after a large tawny owl dropped in, via the chimney, on our drawing-room at tea time.

I have yet to see a bull in a china shop, but its effect must be minimal beside that of an owl in a drawing-room. Ornaments, pictures and pastries were scattered, while between sorties it slumbered in a corner. Reference to our bird book showed its favourite snack to be a live mouse, so luring it out of the french window with a titbit was not on. However, in shattering a jardiniere, it k.o.'d itself and we were able to carry it out.

Curiously, my wife's tears when it recovered and flew off into the twilight were not for the devastation behind her, but of joy for the deliverance of the owl.

And yet, if I drop the smallest speck of pipe ash on the carpet . . .

Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD THOMSON,
Nightingales, Hill Waye,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
January 24.

Warm announcement

From Mrs Anne J. Jackson

Sir, It was nice to be able to arrive at work this morning with a smile on one's face thanks to the announcer at Waterloo East, who said "Services are subject to delay this morning due to all this white fluffy stuff falling out of the sky".

Yours faithfully,
ANNE JACKSON,
9 Penn Gardens, Chislehurst, Kent.
February 7.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 7: His Excellency Mr Victor Camilleri was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for Malta in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission: Mr Victor Sant (Deputy High Commissioner), Mr Carmel Mifsud (First Secretary), Mr Victor Pace (First Secretary), Mr Costantino Muscat (First Secretary), Mr George Cuschieri (Second Secretary) and Mr Christopher Grima (Third Secretary).

Mrs Camilleri was also received by Her Majesty.

The Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Judge Rant was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Judge Advocate General.

The Queen, Air Commodore-in-Chief, Royal Air Force Regiment, received Air Vice-Marshal G. C. Williams upon relinquishing his appointment as Commander-General of the Royal Air Force Regiment and Air Vice-Marshal D. R. Hawkins upon assuming the appointment.

The Queen this afternoon opened the new building of the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital, Sydney Street, Chelsea.

Her Majesty was received by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Councillor Jonathan Wheeler) and Mr Tom Meyer (Chairman of the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital and Institute).

Escorted by Mr John Plant (Chief Executive of the Hospitals), Her Majesty toured the Hospital and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Mrs Robert de Pass, the Right Hon Sir Robert Fellowes and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Charities Aid Foundation, received Sir John Read (Chairman) and Mr Michael Brophy (Director) at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, later visited Cambridge University and was received by the Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. G. T. Williams).

Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Sillars, RN was in attendance.

The Prince Edward gave a luncheon for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Diary Committee at Buckingham Palace.

This morning The Princess Royal opened the Sir Michael Sobell Magnetic Resonance Scanner Unit at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, and was received by Sir William Doughty (Chairman of North West Thames Regional Health Authority).

Afterwards Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visited Cutler and Gross (Sloane Optical Ltd) 16 Knightsbridge, London SW1 and Patrizia Wigan Designs (Childrenswear), Studio 7, Marvic House, Bishop's Road, London SW6.

The Princess Royal, Commandant in Chief, St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, this evening attended a reception at The Speaker's House, Palace of Westminster, London SW1 and was received by the Lord Grey of Naunton.

Finally, The Princess Royal, Patron, HFT Development Trust, attended a Quiz Evening at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London.

Mrs William Nunneley was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 7: The Prince of Wales received the Lord Hesketh (Minister of State for Trade and Industry) at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness gave a lunch for the Secretary of State for Scotland (The Right Hon Ian Lang, MP) at Kensington Palace.

The Princess of Wales visited the Postal and Courier Depot, Royal Engineers, Inglis Barracks, London NW7.

Squadron Leader David Barton, RAF was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales was represented by the Lord Tollemache at the Memorial Service for Colonel Sir David Stirling which was held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, today.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 7: The Duke of Kent, Colonel in Chief, this morning visited families of the 3rd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in Hemer, Germany.

His Royal Highness, Colonel, this afternoon visited families of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards in Hohne, Germany.

Captain the Hon Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Brigadier Michael Scott at the Memorial Service for Colonel Sir David Stirling which was held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1, today.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 7: Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Mental Health Foundation, this afternoon received Major-General R. B. Loudoun.

Afterwards Her Royal Highness, Patron of The New Bridge, received the Baroness Ewart-Biggs upon retiring as Chairman and Sir Charles Irving on assuming this appointment.

Princess Alexandra, Deputy Honorary Colonel, The Royal Yeomanry, later received Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Day upon assuming Command of the Regiment.

Her Royal Highness was represented by Sir Angus Ogilvy at the Memorial Service for Colonel Sir David Stirling which was held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, today.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the National Federation of Housing Associations, will open the Hundred Houses Society Lilley Close Development, Water Street, Chesterton, Cambridge, at 9.35; and, as Chancellor of Cambridge University, will visit Hills Road Sixth Form College at 10.20; and, as a trustee of the university's Kurt Hahn Trust, will attend a luncheon at the college.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Mayflower Mohair, Temple Farm, Rockley, Wiltshire, at 10.00 and will open the new Access Computer Centre at Swindon College at 12.10 for students with disabilities.

Marriages

**Mr G. Baker
and Ms C. Becker**
The marriage took place on Grand Cayman, West Indies, on February 7, 1991, between Gregg Baker and Caroline Becker.

**Mr R.C.P. Wood
and Miss H.B. Marsh**
The marriage took place in Antigua, on January 10, of Mr Richard Charles Priestley Wood, son of Mr and Mrs Ernest Wood, of Sheriff Hutton, Yorkshire, and Miss Hélène Marsh, daughter of Mrs Helene Boag and the late Mr Fenimore Cooper Marsh II, of New York.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert Burton, scholar, Lindley, Lincolnshire, 1577; Samuel Butler, author of Hudibras, baptized, Strensham, Worcestershire, 1612; Daniel Bernoulli, mathematician, Groningen, Netherlands, 1700; Louis Blanqui, revolutionary socialist, Puget-Théniers, 1805; John Ruskin, writer, artist and social reformer, London, 1819; Henry Walter Bates, naturalist and explorer, Leicester, 1825; Jules Verne, novelist, Nantes, 1828; Martin Buber, philosopher, Vienna, 1878; Dame Edith Evans, actress, London, 1888. James Dean, film actor, Marian, Indiana, 1931.

DEATHS Mary Queen of Scots, executed, Fotheringay Castle, Northamptonshire, 1587; Peter the Great, tsar of Russia, 1682-1725, St Petersburg, 1725, R.M. Ballantyne, novelist, Rome, 1894; Peter Kropotkin, geographer and anarchist, Dmitrov, Russia, 1921; William Bateson, biologist and geneticist, Merton, Surrey, 1926.

Rioting and looting followed a peaceful demonstration of the unemployed in London, 1886.

Luncheon

ISVA
Sir Brian Corby, President of the CBI, was the principal guest at the annual luncheon of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Mr John Buddle, president, was the host. Among those present were:
Sir Marcus Fox, MP, Sir Frank Layfield, QC, Mr R R B Shutler, Mr Frank Strickland, Mr C G Dickie and Mr David Robinson.

OBITUARIES

BRIGADIER SHEILA HEANEY

Brigadier Sheila Anne Elizabeth Heaney, CB, MBE, TD, a former director of the Women's Royal Army Corps and later chairman of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service in Scotland died on February 1 aged 73. She was born on June 1, 1917.

AS DIRECTOR of the WRAC between 1970 and 1973 Sheila Heaney fought to see the advances made by women in society reflected in that most hierarchical of institutions, the British army. No "women's libber" she opposed proposals to give women weapon training — which was introduced within the next decade. But she resented inequalities and injustice and strove to improve women's status within the service.

She lived to see many changes introduced, including equal rights to married quarters (for women who were married to civilians) and the policy of giving joint postings to serving couples. Most regiments and battalions now have a woman as assistant adjutant and since last October girls have been posted directly to other units instead of all simply belonging to the WRAC.

Brigadier Heaney approved of this gradual integration despite her dedication to her own corps. Her last two jobs in the 1960s before being made WRAC director gave her the responsibility for, successively, other ranks' and then officers' welfare and careers — the areas in which she had always taken greatest interest and to which she now applied a clear and incisive mind. She was one of the very few WRAC officers ever to attend the United States Army Staff College in Kansas.

Yet like so many of her contemporaries, both men and women, she pursued a military career almost by accident. The daughter of a consultant surgeon in Liverpool, she went to Huyton College then Liverpool University, graduating in the year of the Munich crisis.

In 1939 she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) and became one of the first two subalterns in Liverpool, charged with the task of persuading other young women in the city to volunteer. She later went abroad where she spent the latter part of the war and the first two years of peace, first in East Africa and then in Egypt with Middle East Land Forces. It is said that this experience overseas finally helped her to make up her mind over the decision which faced so many ATS officers at that time: whether to pick up the threads of a civilian career they had hardly known or to remain in uniform. She decided to stay and apply for a regular commission in the WRAC which came into being on February 1, 1949.

On her retirement in 1973, she joined the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, which, because it follows the pattern of local government boundaries, was soon in the midst of change. For the three years covering the reorganisation of local government, she was the organiser of Edinburgh centre which as a result of the change became Edinburgh district. Her powers of leadership coupled with enthusiasm and foresight enabled the transition to be accomplished smoothly. These gifts she brought also to the position of chairman for Scotland from 1977 to 1981. Under her guidance, many projects were started and members throughout the country benefited from her clear thinking and devotion to the interests of the WRVS.

In 1977 she was appointed to the executive committee of St Columba's Hospice, a position she held until 1987. She was chairman of the planning committee which was responsible for the building of seminar rooms and the Birsay Hall study centre. Her work for the hospice extended far beyond her executive committee duties. She was always available to drive or to go shopping and acted as a relief volunteer to the co-ordinator. It was indeed fitting that at the end she herself experienced the peace and support of the Hospice where she died.

DEAN JAGGER

Dean Jagger, American film actor, died in Santa Monica, California, on February 5 aged 87. He was born on November 7, 1903.

DEAN Jagger was one of Hollywood's star character actors of the 1940s. He won an Oscar as best supporting actor in the 1949 film *Twelve O'Clock High*, a second world war drama. Both the film and its lead actor, Gregory Peck, were nominated for Academy Awards as well, but Jagger was the film's only winner. He also won an Emmy (television equivalent of the Oscar) in 1979 for his performance in the religious television programme, *This Is The Life*. Jagger demonstrated a keen conscience about all his work throughout his life and often remonstrated with writers and directors about the lack of integrity in many of his roles.

Born in Lima, Ohio, Jagger grew up on an Indiana farm and recalled reciting favourite verses to the cows as he milked them. After studying at the Chicago conservatory of drama, he began his career in vaudeville and on stage in the 1920s. He made his film debut in 1929 in the late silent film *The Woman From Hell*, starring Mary Astor. "My good notices," he later recalled wryly, "had a reverse effect on the industry, which was suddenly revolutionised by sound pictures. With the one film to my credit I was considered part of that group of untouchables — silent film stars."

Best known as a character or supporting actor, he occasionally took a lead role as he did in *Brigham Young — Frontiersman* (1940). His wife, Etta, said that portraying the Mormon leader had been one of her husband's favourite roles. He won the part against fierce competition after starring in the Broadway play *Missouri Legend*, which firmly established him as an actor of considerable ability. One of his best known roles was as the general in *White Christmas* (1954) which starred Bing Crosby, who sang the Irving Berlin title classic. He also co-starred with Spencer Tracy in the classic thriller *Bad Day at Black Rock* (1955).

Jagger was instantly recognisable for his kindly features and demeanour which effectively barred him from serious candidature as a romantic male lead. He did not mind and often joked about playing roles as "everybody's father", including the father of Audrey Hepburn in *The Nun's Story* and of Elvis Presley in *King Creole*. Among Jagger's other films were *Wings In The Dark*, *13 Hours By Air*, *A Yank In London*, *Rawhide*, *The Robe*, *Elmer Gantry* and *The Kremlin Letter*.

He is survived by his wife, Etta, a daughter and two stepsons. Two earlier marriages ended in divorce.

STEWART MORRIS

Stewart Morris, OBE, Olympic yachting gold medallist, died on February 4 aged 81. He was born on May 25, 1909.

STEWART Morris was Britain's most successful dinghy racing skipper, winning the coveted Prince of Wales Trophy, the premier annual race in international 14 class dinghies, a record 12 times between 1932 and 1966. He also finished runner-up on five occasions, another record. However, it was his victory with crewman David Bond in the Swallow keelboat class at the 1948 Olympic Games in Torquay that remains the pinnacle of a remarkable sailing career that continued with the class until four years ago.

The son of a hop merchant, Morris was brought up in Norfolk and educated at Charterhouse. He took over the management of the family business, Arthur Morris, after graduating from Cambridge, but played a decreasing role in the company's affairs when sailing became his prime interest after the second world war.

During the war Morris served in the RNVR and rose to the rank of commander in the Fleet Air Arm where he became the first of an initial four fighter direction officers, who from the ship guided pilots to intercept the enemy. He won the position as the sole graduate from his particular training course because no others were capable of thinking in two dimensions, a lesson he had learned from sailing. Indeed, his ability to assess weather and topography simultaneously and conclude the correct tactics proved to be one of his strongest attributes both on the racing course and in the air. In 1944, Morris was appointed OBE for his contribution towards developing a successful air defence system for the carrier HMS *Formidable* in which he was serving at the time. After the war the protection system was adopted as a standard for all British aircraft carriers.

During his time at Cambridge, Morris was elected president of the Cambridge University Cruising Club where he hatched the concept of an inexpensive dinghy class initially named Sea Swallow with the Cowes-based designer Uffa Fox. The design was launched after the war as the Firefly and adopted as the singlehanded class at the 1948 Olympics.

Morris also became a leading administrator within the sport, serving on the Yacht Racing Association's small boat and rules committees before succeeding the Duke of Edinburgh as president of the renamed Royal Yachting Association from 1980 to 1983. Those were difficult times for dinghy racing. The Association had just decided to boycott the Soviet-held Olympic Games, and Morris had the unenviable task of rebuilding morale and fundraising for the next Games in 1984. During his term, the RYA also took the new-found sport of windsurfing under its wing and developed a young skipper's scheme to give youngsters an opportunity to take control of yachts during three to four day cruises. He was also a driving force in the re-establishment of the International Yacht Racing Union after the second world war and served as a British representative on the Union's permanent committee for nine years until 1965. He was elected a Rear Commodore of the Royal Thames YC and the Royal Yacht Squadron.

DENYS SUTTON

Sir Denis Mahon writes:

YOUR obituary (January 29) does justice to many sides of Denys Sutton's quite exceptional career as a connoisseur, writer on art and exhibition organiser. However, I would like to add one aspect which was not touched upon, his powerful and eloquent interventions on occasions when he felt that political moves endangered what he held dear.

To take but one example, to my knowledge he played an invaluable part in the successful endeavour in 1953-54 to change the government's mind over the facilitation by statute of sales of their holdings by the trustees of the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery. With his understanding of the truth of *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes* and his profound familiarity with the history of changes in taste, he at once realised the immense dangers of such a policy.

He was naturally outraged when a similar project, due in all probability to bureaucratic inexperience, briefly surfaced again in 1988-89 only to be wisely abandoned by the then minister for the arts, Richard Luce. Denys rightly believed that the loss of goodwill towards the institutions would in the long run enormously outweigh any conceivable gains.

Memorial service

Colonel Sir David Stirling
The Prince of Wales was represented by Lord Tollemache at a memorial service for Colonel Sir David Stirling held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Duke of Kent was represented by Brigadier Michael Scott and Princess Alexandra by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy.

The Rev J.A. Barrie officiated, assisted Father Walter Maxwell-Stuart, OSB, and the Very Rev J. Fraser McLuskey.

Archie Stirling of Keir and Mr Peter Stirling, brother, read the lessons. Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Dunconnel gave an address.

Dinner

Royal Society for Asian Affairs
Lord Denman, President of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Savoy Hotel and presented the Sir Percy Sykes Memorial medal to Sir Denis Wright. The Malaysian High Commissioner, Mrs Lynda Chalker, MP, and Sir Michael Wilford also spoke.

Church Army marching to the dole queue

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Church Army, the evangelistic wing of the Church of England, is to cut its staff by 10 per cent, weeks after the launch of the decade of evangelism.

The 40 officers and non-uniformed staff of the Church Army, whose most famous officer is Terry Waite, the kidnapped envoy, were told this week that their work will cease in the next three months. If alternative jobs cannot be found, they will join the unemployment register.

Numbers in training could also be cut by more than a third and the army's £30,000 grant to a sister society in eastern Africa may be stopped.

The Church Army last night appealed for all its supporters to pray for it on Sunday, May 12, the date fixed to "set priorities and seek resources for the decade of evangelism."

Captain Philip Johanson, chief secretary, said: "Sadly, all areas of the society's operations are affected. And because Church Army has channelled most of its resources into the frontline of evangelistic work, that is the area that will be affected most.

"A reduction in the workforce is inevitable. These reductions will be made, wherever possible, by not filling vacancies, but some redundancies are almost certain."

There are about 700 staff in the United Kingdom, of which 400 are on the payroll. The cuts are part of an internal review, which will include the relocation of training operations from Blackheath in south-east London to Sheffield and a move to a regionally-based management structure.

Captain Gordon Kitney, director of communications and appeals, said the army faced a stark choice between the lay-offs or possible closure in three years.

"This has happened at a critical time in the life of the Church Army. Here we are, at the coldest time of the year, when many families and elderly people will turn to us for help. We would like to be doing more for homeless people.

"We were looking to move forward into all these exciting prospects of the decade of evangelism. Instead, we are having to draw back. We are also cutting back on administration and advertising at a time when we need to raise more money."

Last year's deficit of £330,000 is expected to increase to more than £600,000 by the end of March. The last Church Army profit was £100,000 in 1982.

The crisis, reported in today's *Church of England Newspaper*, has arisen because financial reserves which have been used to keep the army going are exhausted. Officers are reluctant to capitalise on assets. Captain Kitney said: "If we continued as we were, in two years' time we would have to close two old peoples' homes with 40 residents in total."

Income last year was a record £2.4 million, with £1.3 million from legacies and £1.1 million divided equally between church donations, individuals and industry. The Church Army has been hit by the recession in the construction industry, which has resulted in the loss of two major industrial donations.

Captain Kitney said:

"Many people are very angry. Certainly the board and the management committee of the Church Army have very much regretted making this kind of recommendation. But the fact is that if we did not, in three years' time there would possibly be no Church Army."

Carey hears peace plea

DR GEORGE Carey, Archbishop-designate of Canterbury, was one of 950 leading churchmen who yesterday walked through a shroud of smoke in an ancient aboriginal purification rite before taking part in an ecumenical Christian service (Ruth Gledhill writes).

More than 300 Anglican, protestant and Orthodox churches from 100 countries were represented at the service, at the Australian National University in Canberra, to open the World Council of Churches' Seventh Assembly. The assembly is the highest governing body of the WCC, a worldwide ecumenical organisation.

After an opening address by Bob Hawke, Australian Prime Minister, one of the council's seven presidents called for a cease-fire in the Gulf. Metropolotian Paulos Mar Gregorius of India said: "No one in this assembly doubts Iraq must leave Kuwait. There is genuine doubt about the means to make Iraq do that. It is our desire that war should stop, that all occupied territories should be liberated."

Mr Hawke, the son of a minister, defended the use of force to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait.

The assembly, which will focus on prayer and the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, will mark a turning point in Australian-Aboriginal relationships. A plenary session at the WCC will dramatise the life and struggle of the aborigines.

The meeting will also tackle the challenge of pentecostal and charismatic movements and African independent churches to Christian unity.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Christopher Irving, Team Vicar, St Paul's, Willington Quay, diocese Newcastle: to be Vicar, Monk Bretton, Barnsley, diocese Wakefield.
The Rev Robert F Key, Vicar, Eynsham and Cassington, diocese Oxford: to be Vicar, St Andrew's, Oxford, same diocese.
The Rev Christopher G Lewis, Team Rector, Whitstable team, diocese Canterbury: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, same diocese.
The Rev Christopher Lowson, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Eltham, diocese Southwark: to be Vicar St Peter Petersfield w St Mary, Buriton, diocese Portsmouth.
The Rev David Miell, Assistant Curate, Walton, Broughton and Milton Keynes, diocese Oxford: to be Team Vicar in the Walton, Milton Keynes team, same diocese.
The Rev Michael McGowan, Vicar, Christ Church, Barnet, diocese London: to be *also* Area Dean of Central Barnet, same diocese.
The Rev Peter Maurice, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Rotherhithe, diocese Southwark: to be *also* Rural Dean of Bermondsey, same diocese.
The Rev Piers Nash-Williams, Team Vicar, Wash Common St George, in the Newbury team, diocese Oxford: to be Rector, Ascot Heath All Saints, same diocese.
The Rev Simon Pothen, Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Southgate, diocese London: to be Assistant Curate, St Mary, Lansdowne Road, Tottenham, same diocese.
The Rev Martin Randall, Vicar, Good Shepherd, West Derby, diocese Liverpool: to be Priest-in-charge, Christ Church, Toxteth Park, and of St Bede, Toxteth, same diocese.
The Rev John Rankin, Priest-in-charge, Steeple Claydon, diocese Oxford: to be the incumbent, The Claydons, same diocese.
The Rev Geoffrey P Ravalde, Curate, St Mary and St Nicolas, Spalding, diocese Lincoln to be Priest-in-charge, Wigton, diocese Carlisle.
The Rev Charles Read, Assistant Curate, Oldham parish church, diocese Manchester: to be Assistant Curate, St Clements, Urmston, same diocese.
The Rev John D Reese, Vicar, Bishop's Castle w Mainstone, diocese Hereford: to be Vicar, Tupsley, same diocese.
The Rev David J Robertson, Team Vicar, High Wycombe St Birinus, diocese Oxford: to be *also* Rural Dean of Wycombe, same diocese.
The Rev Peter Sinclair, Assistant Curate, Darlington, Holy Trinity, diocese Durham: to be Priest-in-charge, Woodhouse Close, (Local Ecumenical Project), same diocese.
The Rev Geoffrey N R Sowerby, Vicar, Hawes w Hardraw, diocese Ripon: to be *also* a Diocesan Adviser to Deliverance Ministry, same diocese.
The Rev Howard I J Such, Precentor, Canterbury Cathedral, diocese Canterbury: to be Vicar, St Peter and St Paul, Borden, same diocese.
The Rev Gill Sumner, non-stipendiary minister, St Andrew's, Oxford, diocese Oxford: to be non-stipendiary minister, Kirtlington, Bletchingdon, Weston-on-the-Green and Hampton Gay, same diocese.
The Rev Pamela J Swift, Parish Deacon, St James w Christ Church, Bermondsey, diocese Southwark: to be Parish Deacon, St Cross, Middleton, diocese Ripon.

Birthdays today

Lord Cameron, 91; Professor Averil Cameron, ancient historian, 51; Mr Osian Ellis, harpist, 63; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat, royal equerry, 78; Marshal of the RAF Sir John Grandy, 78; Mr Harman Grisewood, former chief assistant to the director-general, BBC, 85; Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, 76; Lady (Geoffrey) Howe, former deputy chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission, 59; Lord Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi 70.

Mrs Diana Ladas, former headmistress, Heathfield School, 78; Professor Ann Lambton, former professor of Persian, 79; Mr Murray Lawrence, former chairman, Lloyd's, 56; Mr Jack Lemmon, actor, 66; Miss Morag Macdonald, company secretary, Post Office, 44; Sir Kenneth Maddocks, former governor, Fiji, 84; Lord O'Brien of Lothbury, 83; Mr Alexander P. Papamarkou, international financier, 61; Dr June Paterson-Brown, former chief commissioner, Girl Guides Association, 59; Lord Rayne, 73; Lord Revelstoke, 80; Sir Richard Southern, former president, St John's College, Oxford, 79; the Rev Dr John Tudor, superintendent minister, Westminster Central Hall, 61, Mr John Williams, composer of film scores, 59.

Appointments

Mr Seager Berry to be Taxing Master of the Supreme Court, from April 9.

Mr Trevor Clay, Mr David Garfield Davies, Miss Brenda Dean, Mr Alexander Ferry and Mr John Denton Pollock to be employee members of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, with immediate effect.

Mrs Catherine Porteous to be a trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

The Society for Minimally Invasive General Surgery

Professor Lord McColl of Dulwich was elected President of the Society for Minimally Invasive General Surgery at its inaugural meeting held at the Royal Society of Medicine. Mr R. D. Rosin was elected honorary secretary and Mr M. McMahon honorry treasurer.

St George's School Harpenden

The Chapel Centenary is being celebrated on May 18-19. Former pupils and staff who have not received invitations and details should contact the Headmaster's Secretary, telephone: 0582 765477.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr J.E. Buck
and Miss S.P. Mallock**
The engagement is announced between Sub-Lieutenant James Buck, RN, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W.A. Buck, of Stramshall, Staffordshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M.C. Mallock, of Greatham, Hampshire.

**Mr C.S. Coombe-Tennant
and Miss S.K. Stott**
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Alexander Coombe-Tennant, of Chiddingfold, Surrey, and Suzanne, daughter of Dr and Mrs Philip Stott, of Kidlington, Oxford.

**Mr G.B Cross
and Mrs H.J. Adams**
The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place shortly between Giles Cross, of Halfpenny House, Fownhope, Herefordshire, and Veronica Adams, of Mill House, Much Cowarne, Herefordshire.

**The Hon A.C.D. Jeffreys
and Miss S.M.A. Sainsbury**
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of the late Lord Jeffreys and of Mrs Edward Clarke, of Foxhill House, Hawling, Gloucestershire, and Sonamara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Barry Sainsbury, of London.

**Mr R.E. Reynolds
and Dr A.F. Craven**
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of the late Mr E. Reynolds and of Mrs E. Reynolds, of Hardwick, Northamptonshire, and Anna, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs F.W. Craven, formerly of Manchester, and now of Coventry.

**Mr C.T. Rolls
and Miss J. Ondaatje**
The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of the late Mr Thomas Rolls and of Mrs June Rolls, of West Sussex, and Jans, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Ondaatje, of Toronto, Canada.

**Dr J.M. Sandford
and Miss K. Wadhwa**
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr D. Sandford, of Kennington, and Mrs P. Sandford, of Dulwich, and Kiran, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Wadhwa, of Wimbledon.

**Mr M.W.E. Schuster
and Mrs M.A. Morgan**
The engagement is announced between Michael Schuster, of London, N1, formerly of Kenya, and Monika Morgan, of Hampton, Middlesex.

**Mr M. Wnek
and Miss S. Boyce**
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mrs J. Sadovy, of Halland, Crowborough, Sussex, and the late Mr A. Wnek, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin D. Boyce, of the Le Grand Mourier, St John, Jersey.

You do these things I hate, and then you come and stand in my Temple and say, "We are safe".
Jeremiah 7:10 GNB

BIRTHS

ADAMS - On February 4th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Nicola and Roger, a daughter, Charlotte Louisa Cameron.

ADEBANJO - On January 31st at The Humana Hospital Wellington, to Dorothy and Kenny, a son, Ayodeji Andrew Ndagiie.

ALEN-BUCKLEY - On Thursday, January 24th, to Giancarla (nee Forte) and Michael, a daughter, Portia, a sister for Luke.

BOWERMAN - On February 6th to Sarah (nee Cann) and Charles, a son, Thomas Humphrey.

CAMERON - On February 5th, to Phoebe (nee Moorhouse) and Neil, a son, Ewen St Clair.

CARTER - On January 29th, 1991, in Sydney, Australia to Jennifer (nee Gusna) and Richard, a wonderful son, Benedict Charles and daughter, Amelia Rose.

CHRISTIE-MILLER - On February 5th, to Elizabeth and Stephen, a son, David, a brother for Emma.

CRIPPS - On February 1st at West Dorset Hospital, Dorchester to Joanna (nee Robinson) and Matthew, a son, Edward Michael, a brother for Oliver.

CULLIS - On February 7th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital to Pauline (nee Stone) and Jonathan, a daughter.

DAVIES - On February 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Susan (nee Curran) and Simon, a daughter, Louise Elizabeth.

DUCKHAM - On February 5th, to Debbie (nee Grove) and Paul, a daughter, Amy Louise, a sister for Philip.

FAIRBANK - On January 31st, to Harriet and Anthony, a daughter, Emily Rose.

GOODER - On January 16th to Rosemary and Howard, a wonderful son, Timothy Charles Gerard.

GRANVILLE - On January 20th, to Cheryl (née Owens) and Charles, a son, James Channing, a brother for Felicity, Richard and John.

GREEVES - On February 6th, 1991, to Charlotte (nee Peroni) and Tony, a daughter, Megan Charlotte. Grateful thanks to Doctors and staff at Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong.

HAMPSON - On February 6th, to Amanda (nee Brackley) and Andrew, at St George's Hospital, the blessing of a daughter, Roseanna Marielle.

HASTIE-SMITH - On February 5th 1991, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, to Joanne (nee Ide) and Tim, a son, Edward Frederick Maybury, a brother for Emily.

KENNERLEY - On January 30th, to Ghislaine (nee Galbraith) and Peter, a daughter, Sarah.

LEBUS - On February 6th, 1991, to Venetia and Willie, a son, Henry William, a brother for Frederick and Tomasina.

MACNEAL - On February 5th 1991, to Amelia (nee Bicknell) and Hector, a daughter, Georgia.

OBRIEN - On February 1st, at The Portland Hospital, to Robin and Andy, a daughter, Haley Fallon.

POWELL - On February 4th to Sarah (nee John) and Richard, a daughter, Isabel, a sister for Elizabeth and James.

WELLER - On February 3rd, at The Portland Hospital, to Jacqueline (nee Mathiesen) and Tim, a son, Harry Edward, a brother for Emily.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

HOLTORP:TERRY - On February 8th 1941, at St. Philip's Church, Norbury, SW16, Stuart Paul to Winifred May, now at Aldwick, West Sussex.

SWALLOW:RICHARDS - On February 8th 1941, at St. Peter's Church, Gloucester, Ronald and Mary. Now at Bewdley, Worcestershire.

TOBIN:LEGGE - On February 8th 1941, at Church of Our Lady, Chesham Bois, Bucks, John Joseph Thomas and Marie, now at Ealing, W13.

DEATHS

ALIMONDA - On February 3rd 1991. Peacefully in hospital after a short illness, Roland, much loved husband and beloved father of David and Stephen. Close family cremation service has taken place, donations if desired to Cancer Research. A Truly Special Man.

ALLAN - On February 3rd, peacefully at home in Dorchester-On-Thames, Andrew, husband of Nan. Funeral, attended by family only, has taken place.

AUCOTT - On February 6th, at Budleigh Salterton, Mabel Doris (née Jones), formerly of Birmingham. Widow of Col. B. Aucott, R.A. A wise much loved mother, grandmother and friend.

CHANCE - On February 6th peacefully at Chesterton House, Daphne Corona widow of Geoffrey, much loved mother of Michael and Ann, stepmother of Pam and June, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service at 12 noon on Monday February 18th at Minety Church. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Treasurer, Minety Church, C/O Packer & Slade, 1 City Bank Road, Cirencester.

COX - On February 3rd 1991, peacefully in hospital, Pamela Eve Barrington of Nutley, East Sussex, aged 76 years. Funeral service to take place at Nutley Parish Church on Friday 15th February at 11.30am, followed by private cremation. Flowers and enquiries to Cooper and Son, Funeral Service, Rose Cottage, New Town, Uckfield, East Sussex. Telephone: 0825 763763.

CRAIG - On February 2nd, 1991, suddenly, Richard Vincent, much loved husband of Valerie, beloved father of Mark and James, son of Mrs Robert Garrett, and brother of Tom, Charles and Amanda. Funeral service at Chelsea Old Church, London SW3, at 10.30am on Tuesday, February 12th. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon Funeral Directors, 74 Rochester Row, London SW1. Tel: 071 834 4624.

DEXTER - On February 5th, suddenly in his sleep at his home in Cardano, Lake Como, Italy, John Dartnell, C.B.E., aged 58, beloved husband of Ann and adored father of Lucy, Camilla and Juliet. Funeral at All Saints Church, Milan, Saturday, February 9th. Interment at Griante, Lake Como. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to The Gulf Trust for War Widows. Memorial Service to be announced later.

DORESA On February 6th 1991, in Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge, Eric Constantine. Beloved husband of Jill and the late Molly, devoted father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Cremation private. Family flowers only. No letters, but donations if desired to the British Heart Fund, Market St, Saffron Walden, Essex.

GARDNER - On February 6th 1991, in Bournemouth General Hospital, C.J., aged 83 years, formerly Manager of Barclays Bank, Income Tax Department, Luton, retired 1968, husband of Muriel. Funeral service at Bournemouth Crematorium on Monday February 11th at 3.30pm. No flowers please, but donations for The Poole General Hospital Scanner Equipment Fund, may be sent to The Brian Wilton Funeral Home, 156 Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3JX. Tel: Bournemouth 0202 428 536.

GILLESPIE - On February 1st, Charles Guy, aged 32, in Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A., where he was associate professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin. Private funeral, donations if desired to Amnesty International.

GOWING - On February 5th, 1991, Professor Sir Lawrence Burnett, C.B.E., R.A., aged 72, suddenly and peacefully in London, loved husband of Jenny, loved father of Laura, Amanda and Juliet. Family funeral, memorial to be arranged. Flowers to CRS Funeral Services, 82 Parsons Green Lane, London, SW6 4HU by 11.00 am 14th February.

GRINDLE - On February 4th, in her eighty-second year, Madeleine, much loved wife for fifty-four years of Geoffry, mother of Michele and grandmother of Sarah, Kate and Peter. Cremation private, family flowers only. No letters please.

HART - On February 4th, 1991, peacefully at Thamesfield Nursing Home, Henley-on-Thames, Ethel Evelyn, aged 91 years. Funeral service at Reading Crematorium on Tuesday February 12th, at 10.15am.

KYRKE-SMITH - On February 6th, peacefully in Sidmouth, Devon, Dennis, most dearly loved and loving husband of Monica, devoted father of Sarah, Anthony, Peter and Neville, and dear grandfather. Funeral service at Salcombe Regis Church on Ash Wednesday, February 13th at 3pm.

LACEY - On February 3rd 1991, suddenly but peacefully at home, Desmond (J.K.D.) Lacey. He worked hard all his life for others, played hard, and was valued as a friend by all who met him. He never caused hurt to anyone. All friends welcome at Putney Vale Crematorium, Kingston Road, SW15 on Thursday February 14th at 3.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. James' Building Fund Appeal, 91 Queen's Gate, SW7 5AB.

LARRARD - On January 30th 1991, peacefully in hospital John Henry Larrard C.B.E. in his 96th year. Greatly loved husband of Audrey (Jane). Much loved uncle of Ian. Funeral has taken place, donations if desired to Alzheimers Disease, please, c/o: R. Davis & Son, 381 Gloucester Road, Bristol, BS7 8TN.

LINDOP - On 2nd February, peacefully in her sleep at Cuckfield Hospital, Edith Emily, much loved and missed friend and aunt. Funeral Service to be held on Thursday 14th February at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth at 2.15 p.m. All floral tributes may be sent c/o Masters & Son, 20 High St., Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2HH.

LISTER - On February 5th, suddenly at home, Julius von Mengershausen, much loved husband of Veronica, and father of Martin, Adam, Ralph and Marina. Funeral service at St. Paul's Church, Augustus Road, SW19, on Tuesday February 12th, at 2.30 pm. Enquiries and flowers to Mears and Cotterill, 169 Merton Road, SW18. Tel: 081 874 7698.

LLOYD-JONES - On Tuesday February 5th at Hammersmith Hospital Bethan, widow of the Reverend Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Beloved mother of Ann and Elizabeth, and a much loved grandmother and greatgrandmother. Funeral service at Bethel Chapel, Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed at 2.30 pm. Saturday February 9th and Thanksgiving Service at Westminster Chapel, Buckingham Gate, London S.W.1. at 3.00 p.m. Sunday February 10th.

McCANDLISH - On February 4th, Evan (David), aged 85 years. Cremation at Penmount, Truro on Wednesday February 13th at 2.20pm.

MCINTYRE - On February 5th, Joy Irma Stratford of Wythall, Watford, much loved mother of Anthea and Jamie.

MOBBS - On February 4th 1991, at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Edward Barry, of Winchester, aged 69 years. Much loved husband of the late Ivy (Jo). Service at Southampton Crematorium on Monday 11th February at 3.00 p.m. (East Chapel). Flowers or donations, if desired, to The National Institute for the blind may be sent to Jno. Steel & Son Ltd, Chesil House, Winchester.

MORGAN - On February 5th 1991, in hospital at Leicester, Philippa Mary (née Tompkins), formerly of Aycliffe village, County Durham. Widow of Peter, dearly loved mother of Richard and grandmother of Clare. Funeral Service at Gilroes crematorium, Groby Road, Leicester, on Tuesday, February 12th, at 2.15 pm. Enquiries please, to A J Adkinson & Son, Funeral Directors, 12, London Road, Oadby, Leicester. Tel: 0533 712340.

ORDISH - On February 6th, 1991, peacefully at Penzance, Francis George aged 86 years of Nancledra, Penzance. Beloved husband of Olive and a much loved father and grandfather.

SINDEN - On February 1st 1991, peacefully in a Kent Nursing Home, Frederick Victor in his 90th year. Beloved husband of the late Annie Sinden and much loved brother of Ethel Sinden. Funeral service to be held in St George's Church, Benenden on Tuesday 12th February at 2pm followed by interment in the churchyard. Donations if desired to Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Enquiries to K.B. Sills Ltd, Kenwood, High Street, Cranbrook, Kent. Tel: (0580) 712284.

STEPHENS - On February 6th, after an illness borne with great courage, Mark, aged 45, beloved son of Jim and Aileen, of Auckland, New Zealand and dearly loved friend of Peter Bentley. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium, 2.30 pm, Thursday, February 14th. No flowers, donations to The London Lighthouse, 111, Lancaster Road, London W11.

FEB 8

ON THIS DAY

1934

Discontent, fanned by extremists on both sides, arose from increasing unemployment and from the Stavisky scandal which raised suspicions of corruption in high places. Daladier, French Prime Minister, resigned after 11 days in office to avoid further bloodshed in the streets, on which The Times *bluntly declared: "A night's fierce rioting has brought down the French Government."*

BONFIRES ON THE BOULEVARDS

After the grave disorders of last night, the atmosphere of Paris to-day was one of great tension, which was slightly tempered in the afternoon by the news of M. Daladier's resignation. But in the evening destructive rioting, this time the work of Communist bands who had come in from the industrial outskirts of the city, broke out on the Grands Boulevards.

The Place de la Concorde and the approaches to the Elysée and the Ministry of the Interior were kept clear by the police, but the rioters succeeded in massing near the Madeleine, and dashed in a series of skirmishes towards the Opera, smashing and burning the newspaper kiosks, and tried to throw barricades across the roadway. Within a few minutes the rioters succeeded in lighting four large fires along the Boulevard des Capucines.

Destruction and looting were the objectives of these hooligans. They worked in small bands, which roamed about the area on both sides of the boulevards, smashing shop windows and grabbing their contents when they found a chance, and melting away into the side streets when the police charged at them. Their pursuit by the *agents* was like nothing so much as a rat hunt on a grand scale.

The police had watchers posted at points of vantage and cyclists to keep in touch with the gangs. The rioters had scouts who watched at the corners and signalled to them by whistling. Most of the rioters were youths in their teens. The police showed no mercy to those they caught in the act of looting or wrecking. They beat them senseless, leaving them to be picked up by volunteer first aid men with motor-cars protected by white flags.

Two or three hours of this meant a good deal of material damage and numerous, though not usually very serious, casualties. Your Correspondent saw the windows of a big shop near the Madeleine wrecked and partly looted: a moment later the police were chasing wreckers down the Rue Cambon. The Café Weber, in the Rue Royale, was again used, as it was yesterday, as a dressing station. It was soon full of wounded, some rioters, other innocent but slow-footed lookers on, the "walking" cases sitting on the floor or the benches while their wounds were dressed, the more serious cases laid out on café tables placed in pairs.

The distinction between the Royalist and Communist rioters was very noticeable, apart from differences in dress. The Royalists were organised in parties of 40 or 50, composed of young men headed by older leaders. The Communists were either not organised at all or rallied in haphazard fashion by stalwarts in cloth caps and overalls. Modern descendants of the *petroleuses* were in evidence among them. Bareheaded women in shawls and slippers were seen setting fire to motorcars, omnibuses, and inflammable wreckage.

Some of the Nationalist leaders attempted the proclamation of a new order in the classic manner. Towards midnight a group of young men entered the Colisée, a large café in the Champs-Elysées. They brushed aside the waiters and the manager, and one of them, raising his hand, addressed the people sitting at the tables. "Mesdames et Messieurs," he said, "stand up and sing the Marseillaise." The order, after some hesitation, was complied with by many of his hearers. "Now," said the self-appointed leader, "all good Frenchmen follow me. The foreigners may stay behind." A goodly contingent followed him into the street to join in the demonstrations.

TINDALL - On February 7th, peacefully at The Winterbourne Hospital, Dorchester, after a long and courageous fight against cancer, Hélène, much loved wife of Adam and mother of Julia, Simon, Peter and Emma. Private cremation followed by a Thanksgiving service at All Saints' Church, Piddletrenthide, 12.30 pm, Tuesday February 12th.

TUCK - On February 5th, 1991, peacefully at home, Ralph, loving husband of Helen, dear dad of Rod, father-in-law of Margaret and much loved grandad of Victoria and James. Private cremation service in Norwich on Monday, February 11th followed by Memorial Service at 2.30pm at All Saints Church, Dickleburgh, near Diss, Norfolk. Family flowers only please but donations for the Big 'C' Appeal are being accepted c/o R. Rivett Ltd., Funeral Directors, 15 Carlton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0RU. Tel: (0502) 573632.

WRENN - On February 6th 1991, Wrenn H.A. (Dick) of Tall Trees, Harrowden Road, Wellingborough, dearly beloved husband of Barbara, father of Ricky, Helen, Lyn and the late Michael, retired head-master of Wellingborough Grammar School. The funeral will take place at All Hallows Parish Church, Wellingborough on Monday 11th February 1991 at 2.30pm.

WRIGHT - On February 5th at Cuckfield hospital West Sussex after a short illness, Maisie, aged 86, formerly Senior Psychiatric Social Worker at St Francis Hospital. Funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield on Wednesday, February 13th at 11 am. No flowers by request, donations if desired to St Catherines Hospice, Malthouse Rd, Crawley, West Sussex.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

SCOBIE - John Edward - A service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of John Edward Scobie, founder of A1 Paper Plc, will be held in St. Philip's Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham on Wednesday 13th March at 7pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BURGESS - Frederick Bevan. February 8th 1911 to December 6th 1966. Much loved, deeply missed.

EATOCK - Margaret Rose, died February 8th 1990. Much loved and sadly missed by husband Brian and children John, Debra and Briony. Always in our thoughts and words.

KNOWLING - In everloving memory of Ellen, wife of the Rev. Dr. Knowling, Canon of Durham. Feb. 8 1914.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SYKES - Mrs. William Sykes and family wish to thank all those who have sent letters of sympathy on the death of her husband Air Vice Marshal William Sykes O.B.E. R.A.F. (Ret'd). She hopes to write personally to all at a later date. A very special thank you to the 53rd Entry RAF Halton.

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SKI LA VIE Lovely village resorts. lux accom gourmet cuisine, nannies. Superb skiing areas. Excellent value late holiday prices. Tel 071 736 6611 for brochure. ATOL 2516

STUNNING luxury chalet in Meribel. Ensuite fac. 1 min to Piste. Sleeps 6-8. Avail Feb 9, 16. SkiBelAir 071 281 2077

WEEKEND Skiing & Tailor-made hols Air or S/D Freedom Holidays 081-741 4686 (ATOL 432)

LONDON

KENSINGTON & Hampstead luxury serviced apts. 081 451 3094 Fax 081 459 4422.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

COUPLE wanted to occupy Guardians cottage on property in Provence. Cooking & housework + garden, fruit trees & swimming pool amongst duties. Car drivers with good records essential. Advertiser seeks names of associations of ex-servicemen, police etc. as persons having taken early retirement from such bodies preferred. References essential. Please Reply to Box No 2728

LEADING City Wine Bar seeks a cook to prepare and serve interesting food. Would suit recently qualified person or someone with similar experience. Hours: 9 to 4.30 p.m., plus 2 evenings p w to 8.30 p.m. No weekends. Earnings c.£908 per month. Please ring Richard Davis on 071 628 8224 (not 12 - 3 p.m.).

MATURE Housekeeper/Mothers Help aged between 35-45 required for loving but busy mother of two. Kate is 10 years old and Matthew is 8. Household duties & helping with children's care. A very good salary. Ample free time. References are essential. Please telephone 071-503 0845 & if no one is at home please do not hesitate to leave a message on the ansaphone & your call will be returned.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION

Charity - Miss Elizabeth Hester Eversley, Greater London

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number 166392-L/A.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
E T HERON PROPERTIES LIMITED
Registered number: 1021626. Trading name: ET HERON PROPERTIES LTD. Nature of business: DORMANT. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 31 01.91. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC. READING. MICHAEL GERCKE and PETER PADMORE. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 2360 and 5600). Address: PRICE WATERHOUSE, BRIDGE GATE
55/57 HIGH STREET
REDHILL
SURREY
RH1 1RX.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
BEVAN BUILDERS MERCHANTS LIMITED
Registered number: 640194. Nature of business: BUILDERS MERCHANTS. Trade classification: 26 Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 31 JANUARY 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC. MICHAEL DAVID GERCKE AND JONATHAN GUY ANTHONY PHILLIPS Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 2360 and 6481). Address:
PRICE WATERHOUSE
BRIDGE GATE
55/57 HIGH STREET, REDHILL
SURREY RH1 1RX

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
ARUN ENGINEERING LIMITED
Registered number: 1290374. Trading name: ARUN ENGINEERING LIMITED. Nature of business: DORMANT. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 31 01 91. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC. READING. MICHAEL GERCKE and PETER PADMORE. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 2360 and 5600). Address: PRICE WATERHOUSE, BRIDGE GATE
55/57 HIGH STREET
REDHILL
SURREY
RH1 1RX.

LEGAL NOTICES

A divorce petition has been filed against Mabel Frances Richards late of 25A Eastgate Street Aberystwyth who may apply to the Bournemouth County Court Stafford Road Bournemouth Dorset for a copy of the petition or telephone Harold G Walke and Company on 0202 736700 ref FK. If within one month she has not communicated with the registry or H G W & Co the court may hear the case in her absence.

DANCOL ENGINEERING LIMITED

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at The Winning Post, Chertsey Road, Whitton, Middlesex on Thursday the 21st day of February 1991 at 11.00am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Mr D B Coakley of Leach Bright & Partners, Langton Priory Portsmouth Road Guildford, Surrey GU2 5EH, is qualified to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to the above company and will furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the company's affairs as is reasonably required.

Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged with the Company's Registered Office at Leach Bright & Partners, Portsmouth Road Guildford Surrey GU2 5EH not later than 12 noon on the Wednesday the 20th day of February 1991

Dated this 31st day of January 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
J Churchman - DIRECTOR

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF PATERSON PRODUCTS LIMITED
PHOTAX LIMITED
ARLEY GROUP PRODUCTS LIMITED
FLASKEND LIMITED
PHOTO TECHNOLOGY LIMITED
TEST PAPERS LIMITED
ARLEY PHOTO PRODUCTS LIMITED
(ALL IN RECEIVERSHIP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a MEETING of the UNSECURED CREDITORS will be held at Price Waterhouse 10 Bricket Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3JX on the 21st day of February 1991 at 10.30am for the purpose of receiving a report covering the background to and progress of the receiverships together with other matters stipulated by Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986

Please note that a person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if the provision of Rule 3.11(1) Insolvency Rules 1986 have been complied with, namely that:

(a) he has given to the administrative receiver not later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the companies, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provision of Rule 3.11(2)-(7) and

(b) there has been lodged with the administrative receiver any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting

Dated this 1st day of February 1991
PE BALDWIN FCA
Joint Administrative Receiver

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF HARKNESS SCREENS LIMITED
HALL STAGE PRODUCTS LIMITED
CINE SCREENS LIMITED
(ALL IN RECEIVERSHIP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a MEETING of the UNSECURED CREDITORS will be held at Price Waterhouse 10 Bricket Road, St Albans, on the 21st day of February 1991 at 2.30pm for the purpose of receiving a report covering the background to and progress of the receiverships together with other matters stipulated by Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986

Please note that a person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if the provision of Rule 3.11(1) Insolvency Rules 1986 have been complied with, namely that:

(a) he has given to the administrative receiver not later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the companies, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provision of Rule 3.11(2)-(7) and

(b) there has been lodged with the administrative receiver any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting

Dated this 1st day of February 1991
PE BALDWIN FCA
Joint Administrative Receiver

IN THE MATTER of ICS BUSINESS SYSTEMS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 15th day of March 1991, to send in their full forenames and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned JONATHAN JOSEPH SCHAPIRA, ACA, Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated 1st day of February 1991
J.J. SCHAPIRA
Liquidator

WOS MOTOR PARTS & ACCESSORIES LIMITED
- In Administrative Receivership
Registered Number: 1067180

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at The Sherlock Holmes Hotel, 108 Baker Street, London W1M 1LB on Tuesday 19 February 1991 at 14.00 hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers at Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA, not later than 12.00 hrs on 18 February 1991 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of The Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

G A Auger
Joint Administrative Receiver

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Frazer-Nash Group Limited - company number: 1174688
Frazer-Nash Group Services Limited - company number: 1341878
Frazer-Nash Defence Systems Limited - company number 608082
Frazer-Nash Consultancy Limited - company number 1029011
Frazer-Nash Scientific Limited - company number 1827544
Frazer-Nash Automation Limited - company number 2142945
Frazer-Nash Engineering Limited - company number 858731
Frazer-Nash Manufacturing Limited - company number 2331125
Frazer-Nash Electronics Limited company number 963726
Frazer-Nash Postal Systems Limited - company number 2199170
(All in Administrative Receivership)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at The Chartered Insurance Institute 20 Aldermanbury, London, EC2V 7HY, on 25 February 1991 at 10.30 am.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receiver in writing and the claim has been duly admitted no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting.

b) A form of proxy is lodged with the Receivers which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Claims and proxies should be sent to the Receivers office at Touche Ross & Co at 66/67 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6DX.

Dated 6 February 1991
A R HOUGHTON AND
N G ATKINSON
Joint Administrative Receivers
Frazer-Nash Group of Companies
(All in Administrative Receivership)
Touche Ross & Co
66/67 High Holborn
London
WC1V 6DX

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
C P ROBERTS DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN under the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at The New Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5DA on Wednesday February 13, 1991 at 5.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99,100 and 101 of the Act. A statement of claim and any proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged no later than 4.00 pm on the day prior to the meeting at Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EU

A list of names and addresses of the creditors of the above company will be available for inspection at Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EU on the two business days preceding the meeting.

Dated January 31, 1991
J.C.W. Roberts, Director

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
ROBERTS HOMES LINCOLNSHIRE LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN under the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at The New Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5DA on Wednesday February 13, 1991 at 5.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99,100 and 101 of the Act. A statement of claim and any proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged no later than 4.00 pm on the day prior to the meeting at Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EU

A list of names and addresses of the creditors of the above company will be available for inspection at Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EU on the two business days preceding the meeting.

Dated January 31, 1991
J.C.W. Roberts, Director

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
PROMPTO INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
Registered number: 1449290. Nature of business: Importers and Exporters. Trade classification: 15 Date of appointment of administrative receiver: 5 February 1991 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver:
Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA Ladislav Horman Administrative Receiver (office holder no 2089) Address: Hacker Young and Partners, St Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
MEADOWBROOK DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
Registered number: 1947940 Trading name: MEADOWBROOK DEVELOPMENTS LTD. Nature of business: DORMANT Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 31.01.91. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC. READING. MICHAEL GERCKE and PETER PADMORE. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 2360 and 5600). Address: PRICE WATERHOUSE, BRIDGE GATE
55/57 HIGH STREET
REDHILL
SURREY
RH1 1RX.

Zenstar Limited
- In Administrative Receivership -
Registered Number 2227003

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at The Sherlock Holmes Hotel, 108 Baker Street, London on 19 February 1991 at 11.30 a.m. for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers at Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA, not later than 12.00 hrs on 18th February 1991 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of The Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

PR COPP
Joint Administrative Receiver

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
RKF PROPERTIES LIMITED
Registered number: 198943 Trading name: RKF PROPERTIES LTD. Nature of business: INVESTMENT IN COMMERCIAL PROPERTY Trade classification 23 Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 31 01 91. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC. READING. MICHAEL GERCKE and PETER PADMORE. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 2360 and 5600). Address: PRICE WATERHOUSE, BRIDGE GATE
55/57 HIGH STREET
REDHILL
SURREY
RH1 1RX.

LEGAL NOTICES

LACEY HIGGS & WATTS (ENGINEERING) LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we, R W Cork & P W J Hartigan of Cork Gully, Shelley House, 3 Noble Street, London EC2V 7DQ and South White, 142/148 Main Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6NZ respectively were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company on Friday 25 January 1991 by members and creditors and NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required on or before 25 April 1991, to send their names addresses and details of their debts or claims and of any security held by them to R W Cork at Shelley House, 3 Noble Street, London EC2V 7DQ.

Dated 25 January 1991
R W Cork
Joint Liquidator

IN THE MATTER of ICS BUSINESS SYSTEMS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Jonathan Joseph Schapira ACA, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 1st February 1991

Dated 1st day of February, 1991
Jonathan Joseph Schapira, ACA.
Liquidator
Leonard Curtis & Co.
Chartered Accountants
PO Box 553
30 Eastbourne Terrace
London W2 6LF

ASTORDALE LIMITED
Trading As CAFE RAPALLO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act, 1986, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of LEONARD CURTIS & CO., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF, on Thursday, the 14th day of February, 1991 at 3.30pm for the purpose provided for in Section 98 et seq.

A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated 1st day of February 1991
FREDDY ZELOUF
Director

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
ROAD REEFERS (FROZEN) LTD
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I Michael Leslie Reeves of 33 Bartlow Gardens, Romford, Essex was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company on 22nd January 1991. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given

Dated this 23rd day of January 1991
M L REEVES
LIQUIDATOR

THE NEW WARDROOM HOTEL LIMITED

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company is to be held at 76 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LB on 8 March 1991 at 11.30am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 76 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LB between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. as from 6 March 1991.

Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged at the registered office of the company situated at 76 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LB not later than 12 noon on 7 March 1991.

Dated: 30 January 1991
D HURLEY
Director

UNIVERSAL MICROPERIPHERALS LIMITED

I, Jamie Taylor FIPA of Poppleton and Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company on 30th January 1991 by the Members and Creditors.

Dated 5th February 1991
J. Taylor FIPA
Liquidator

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
RW ALEXANDER (WORTHING) LTD
Registered number: 547775. Trading name: RW ALEXANDER (WORTHING) LTD. Nature of business: DESIGN & SUPPLY OF FITTED KITCHENS Trade classification 23 Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 31 01 91 Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC READING. MICHAEL GERCKE and PETER PADMORE Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 2360 and 5600)
Address: PRICE WATERHOUSE, BRIDGE GATE
55/57 HIGH STREET
REDHILL
SURREY
RH1 1RX

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
INTEGRATED DESIGN GROUP LIMITED
Registered number: 2031130. Trading name: INTEGRATED DESIGN GROUP LTD. Nature of business: PROVISION OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES Trade classification 23 Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 31 01 91. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC. READING. MICHAEL GERCKE and PETER PADMORE. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 2360 and 5600)
Address: PRICE WATERHOUSE, BRIDGE GATE
55/57 HIGH STREET
REDHILL
SURREY
RH1 1RX

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
and
IN THE MATTER OF CRYSTAL PRE-PRESS LIMITED

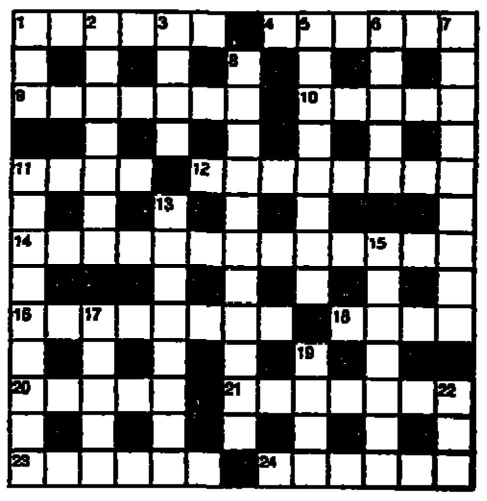
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 15th February 1991 at 4 Charterhouse Square London, EC1M 6EN at 3.00 pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA, of 4, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2) (a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.

Dated 29th day of January 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
K ENGLISH
DIRECTOR

Continued on page 33

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2403



ACROSS
1 Apollo rocket (6)
4 Borneo sultanate (6)
9 Palm fruit (7)
10 Knick-knack (5)
11 Sack (4)
12 Mad (8)
14 From then (13)
16 Referee aide (8)
18 Transcend (4)
20 Violent scene (5)
21 Piano keys (7)
23 Exit (6)
24 Spindly (6)

DOWN
1 Thus (3)
2 Tangible (7)
3 S African currency (4)
5 Meeting programme (8)
6 Tend (5)
7 Cromwell's cavalry (9)
8 Judaic hexagram (4,2,5)
11 Hit back (9)
13 Shears (8)
15 Incredible (7)
17 Niamey state (5)
19 Roman dress (4)
22 Voice (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 2402

ACROSS: 1 Influx 6 Unicorn 8 Curtain 9 Tonight 10 Manna 11 Rail 12 Keen 15 Lark 17 Akin 19 Maori 20 Bob-a-job 22 Laxness 23 Trickle 24 Idiocy

DOWN: 1 Inchmeal 2 Firing 3 Unaware 4 Sign 5 Tongue 6 Unthinkable 7 Net 13 Nijinsky 14 Unmixed 16 Rabbit 18 Bolero 20 Bat 21 Joke

Pretty reactionary, very plausible

Andrew Tinney, child actor and leader of the Young Conservatives, will pass on his ideas for the future at their conference this weekend. Kate Muir checks his credentials

Little did the Tory party apparatchiks realise in 1968, as they watched a four-year-old angelic Andrew Tinney eat his Ambrosia creamed rice in a television commercial, that he would grow up to be one of the more authoritarian leaders the Young Conservatives have spawned.

Mr Tinney, now 26, is scarier than his predecessors on the right. They were just reactionary. He is reactionary, pretty and plausible. He never has been one of those drunken boy Tories who rioted at conferences and wanted to legalise drugs and support South Africa during apartheid. Under the Tinney Team — their campaigning name — the Young Conservatives are growing up.

As their national chairman for the past two years, Mr Tinney has appeared charming, but hints at wickedness lurking just below the surface as he talks of his career as a child actor. "When I see film of a little boy holding a football, a tuft of hair sticking up, I think, 'But that was *me*. I can't have been that sweet'."

He wasn't. Even then, unspeakable things were probably going on in that infant mind. Now he is letting them issue from his lips. He wants to bring back the death penalty: "Lethal injection, or whatever is the most humane method, it doesn't matter." He is keen to privatise all schools. He wants to commercialise the BBC. He misses Mrs Thatcher. He twists his face at the name Major. "I like to think my views are fairly representative of the YC membership," he says, disturbingly.

Here, then, is the future of Conservatism. Soon, the seeds of these youthful ideas may be propagating in the main party. One must not forget that John Major began his brilliant career setting up the Brixton YCs. Who knows what glory awaits Mr Tinney? The first step up will be at the YC annual conference, attended by the prime minister in Scarborough this weekend (weather permitting), which will debate revoking the BBC's royal charter. "The motion on the BBC was quite nicely worded," says Mr Tinney, making a strange laughing noise. "It is to allow the BBC to 'benefit from the competition in the marketplace'. Heh, heh, heh."

He is involved in the Conservative Way Forward, a party pressure group set up last month to keep the "vision and ideals" of Thatcherism from waning during the Major years. This is not surprising, since he is a typical product of the Eighties, owning a flat in Woking, Surrey, commuting to his job as an accountant in the City, and placing his cellphone by the olives at lunch. Better still, his chosen restaurant is called, he claims, Rule Britannia. Though on inspection it turns out to be half French, and spelt "Rouxl".

The Tinney way forward is quite different from the traditional rough-and-tumble of the youthful right, those in the now disbanded and disgraced Federation of Conservative Students. These libertarians would battle at intervals with the Heathite wets who controlled the YCs until the late Eighties. Until Mr Tinney and his team took over, and nothing was quite the same again.

When I see film of a little boy holding a football I think, 'But that was me, I can't have been that sweet'

Determined would be a fair description of his management technique. He won the chairmanship from the left in 1988, by 192 votes to 190, amid allegations that someone had electronically bugged the wets' meetings, arranged for their phones to be cut off, and sent them unsolicited sex manuals. He denies any involvement in the "dirty tricks" campaign. His promotion was slick, even then, with glamorous posters of himself with a Trimphone at his ear, accompanied by somewhat less glamorous cheerleaders waving pompons and wearing Tinney Team T-shirts.

"We have now permanently overturned the Heathite rump. At first I just had a narrow margin, and had to work with four vice-chairmen who were against me. Now they have been replaced by supporters, and I had a two-thirds majority last year. This March I don't think anyone will stand against the new chairman we have nominated. I'd say there's been a shift in thinking." Note the Thatcher pattern emerging here — first get in position, then sack half your cabinet, dry the rest out, bring in some yes-men. Mr Tinney is learning fast.

Not that he is sure he wants to be an MP. "Being a backbencher with no influence doesn't appeal very much." No. We might have guessed that. "And MPs are paid rather badly." Perhaps he is just being modest. Surely anyone who has taken a year off accountancy training to concentrate on leading the YCs must have some aspirations? He certainly plans to bring their image in line with his own carefully crafted one.

"The YCs, and eventually the party itself, will change. There will be less Oxbridge and old school tie, and more people like me, from comprehensive schools and polys and redbrick universities." The Tory MP Julian Critchley once described what followed the grocer's daughter's arrival at Number 10 as the peasants' revolt. "He's the sort of person who thinks you don't deserve to be an MP unless you have four buttons on your jacket sleeve, and that's going to change now," says Mr Tinney, shivering at the mention of old-style paternalist Conservatism. Young rightwingers have abandoned the tradition of waving towels at conferences, indicating that a wet speaker should dry out. Now, everyone is in agreement. There is no alternative under the Tinney regime.

"Young people want excitement, sure, but in essence they aspire to owning their own homes, having a car, a job and a stable family life. We had this image of being stuffy, a sort of marriage bureau more like the Young Farmers than a political party, and in the Fifties and Sixties when people didn't have cars and money, it was more a social club." Back then membership was around 100,000. Now, he estimates it is 10,000, "mostly activists". The remaining opposing wets put it closer to 5,000. Central Office will not confirm or deny this, and sounds rather embarrassed about the whole thing.

Mr Tinney's political heroes are, as expected, Norman Tebbit and Margaret Thatcher. "Under her, it was extraordinarily difficult for people like myself to find anything with which we could disagree. We are now trying to find our feet in the new era. There are definite differences, particularly on Europe and economic policy."

The YC élite are not afraid to speak out about those differences, and have been practising their debating skills at Mr Tinney's newly-created leadership school, a weekend's training in presentation skills, research, television appearances and marketing. "We video them making speeches, and criticise the result. I chair a fake public meeting with candidates, and do a version of *Kilroy*, which is more *Killjoy* really, where I run round the room and insult them. When our people come to perform as MPs, they will perform twice as well as those in the past."

The techniques are coldly professional. There is little chance of these budding politicians indulging in fun or free time or normal youthful activities like sex. Mr Tinney says his chairmanship work can take up to 40 hours a week on top of his full-time job, so he has to be Thatcherite in his bedtime habits, too. "I don't need much sleep — I had four-and-a-half hours last night."

Shame, really, because Mr Tinney is quite fun to be with if you like right-wing zealots. In fact, he describes himself, mysteriously, as a liberal Conservative. He has a rather black, Tebbitish sense of humour, which clashes with his innocent boy-Next-door looks. "Tebbit was such an inspiration," he says, lighting yet another cigarette and nibbling a nail. "I admire him because of where he came from, his roots. And he was so aware of the media — he was a real performer."

Mr Tinney is something of a performer himself, appearing to care more about presentation than policies. As a baby of the media age, he understands that the public are there not to be convinced but to be sold to. As the era of the men-in-grey-suits with even greyer policies dawns, he will bring right wing, well-marketed relief. He seems to have vanquished the boorish tendency in the YCs, and it will be pleasant to see conferences without the usual boys lacking chins, but making up for it in acne. And so telegenic is he, with that Ambrosia angel face, that viewers can only look forward to its eventual appearance in the House. Still, there is a whiff of sulphur surrounding this open handsome front. There is something unsettling, and in the end it is hard to resist a quick check under the restaurant table for the presence of a forked tail.

MICHAEL POWELL

Out of the shadows: after leading the Young Conservatives, is Andrew Tinney ready to move up?

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THE TIMES

Uncertainty about air travel safety is proving a bonanza for private plane hire

Leaving on your own jet plane

A large finance company rented a private aircraft yesterday to fly nine of its executives to the United States after their Concorde flight was cancelled. The cost: £40,000. This was an example of how the drop in the numbers of airline passengers because of fears of terrorist attacks is turning into a boon for charter companies.

A widespread ban on scheduled air travel by firms worried about the safety of their employees, and the growing number of cancelled flights, has encouraged business travellers to consider hiring private aircraft.

Alan Marler, the marketing director of Air London International, Europe's largest and longest established air charter brokerage, says that bookings since the beginning of the Gulf war are up by 40 per cent on the same period last year. Passengers include merchant bankers, design teams and computer executives.

At £900 an hour for a propeller-driven King Air aircraft, it is cheaper for eight people to travel from London to Paris and back by private executive plane (£225 each) than to go business class on a scheduled airline (£290 return with British Airways). Usually, however, there are only two or three passengers on a charter flight, which increases the cost per person.

"Even Concorde is cheaper than taking a private jet," according to Jeremy Palmer, a partner with the London air charter brokers Hunt and Palmer. Although private planes are still a luxury — particularly when companies insist that no more than two top executives travel in the same plane — the cost is often justified on the grounds of flexibility, security and reduced time away from the office.

Executive planes are usually hired out at an hourly rate based on flying time, with a two-hour minimum each day. Rates vary, from about £1,000 an hour for a six-seater Cessna Citation, to £7,000 for the 30-seat DC8 73 which once belonged to the arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. Swiss-based aircraft are much in demand at the moment for "diplomatic reasons".

Mr Palmer is sceptical about claims that there have recently been exorbitant price increases in the air chartering business. "We are certainly getting more enquiries as a result of the Gulf war but a lot of people don't want to spend the money," he says. "I tell the people who ring us because they are worried about terrorists that they are better off going on a scheduled service if there is one available. If anything, the security is tighter."

He also believes that insurance companies that try to increase war risk premiums are "trying it on", a view shared by Douglas White, the managing director of Magec, Britain's largest air charter operator, with eight BAe 125 aircraft at its disposal.

A week before the war started, Captain White talked a client out of paying an extra £18,000 in war risk insurance for a three-day trip to northern Cyprus and western Turkey.

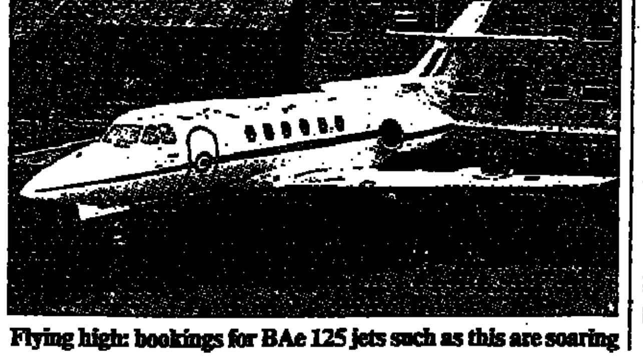
Stephen Merrett, a Lloyd's underwriter specialising in war risk insurance, says that big airlines are being charged only a minimal extra amount for war insurance. "War risk insurance accounts for about 20 per cent of the total insurance," he says. However, he expects the increased cost of security at airports to be passed on to the passengers.

In the past two weeks, Captain White has received three requests from multinational companies for quotations for the exclusive use of an aircraft for six months. He expects at least one of them to accept his price of £456,000.

Magec's prices include a crew of three and food and drink. Moët et Chandon champagne is provided at no extra cost, but there is a supplement for Dom Perignon. (Mr Khashoggi's former DC8 includes everything, even Beluga caviar.)

This week Magec flew three oil company executives on a five-day trip to Gabon for £49,000. "But a large number of the top 100 companies in the United Kingdom are either putting a total ban on their staff travelling or using the expression, 'Anyone travelling outside the UK does so as a volunteer'," Captain White says. "People are delaying their trips, but eventually they will have to go — regardless of the cost."

SALLY BROMPTON



Flying high: bookings for BAe 125 jets such as this are soaring

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BRIEFING

Over, and over there

BROADWAY, like the West End, is suffering from the Gulf war: long-running British musicals may soon be all that is left on the Great White Way. Seven productions closed in January alone, and several others are currently operating at a loss. Chief among the casualties was the James Clavell musical *Shogun*, which closed without beginning to recoup its $6.9 (£3.5) million budget.

Royal audience

WHEN Sidi Seddiki sings at the Jazz Café's "ANC Night" tomorrow, he may scan his audience with special keenness. The Moroccan singer has received a letter from a private secretary to the Prince of Wales, expressing the Prince's pleasure at hearing Seddiki's music in London recently. Those years patrolling the Commonwealth have clearly given the Prince a taste for world music's wilder flowers.

Golden boy

THE Royal Ballet School is celebrating success in this year's Prix de Lausanne, an international competition for young dancers which attracts entrants from all over the world. No fewer than five of the 15 finalists came from the school, including Christopher Wheeldon, who won the gold medal. The others all returned with awards. Four of the five British finalists were boys, a reversal of the norm of female numerical superiority in the world of dance.

Last chance . . .

THE Robert Cray Band adds two shows to the end of its British tour, at the Town and Country in north London (071-284 0303) on Tuesday and Wednesday. Having updated the art of blues guitar playing, Cray is now attempting to reinvent himself as a Southern soul singer. Where once his guitar did all the talking, he is now making fuller use of his voice and bringing the brassy sound of the Memphis Horns more firmly into play.

GALLERIES: LONDON

Whitechapel sunshine and shadow

A joint Michael Andrews and Albert Pinkham Ryder show and the British debut of the abstract American painter Bill Jensen, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

Two occasions are not much to build a theory of habit upon. But it may mean something that, for the second time in three exhibition slots, the Whitechapel Art Gallery is featuring what appears to be an unlikely combination of present and past: a group of recent Australian landscapes by Michael Andrews and a loan show of 26 paintings by Albert Pinkham Ryder.

Presumably one is supposed to attract visitors to the other. Since Ryder is virtually unknown in Britain, the bait must be Michael Andrews. Whether admirers of Andrews' large, fine-spun and understandably popular paintings of Ayers Rock, and other places where the kangaroos hop free, will also respond positively to Ryder's mostly small, moss-grown symbolic landscapes is another matter. With the McKeever/Nolde combination a kind of internal logic was visible. Here the mixture looks self-destructive.

However, each show will fascinate its own audience, though it is not clear what the audience for Andrews may be. At the beginning of his career he was often labelled "Pop Art" because of his subject-matter. He never painted in a Pop Art way, but his fascination with louche clubs and smart parties and the occasional incorporation of silk screen and template in his work were enough to pigeon-hole him. Since the early Sixties, however, he has become increasingly traditional in his ideas and technique. First the English seaside and countryside came to feature prominently, evoked in misty spray-gun techniques, and pop stars were replaced by tweedy sportsmen stalking the hills.

Though he spoke persuasively about the symbolic values of his subjects (a lot to do with ego and conformism), little of this was apparent in the works, which seemed designed increasingly to go down well with those who look forward to the Royal Academy summer show.

The Ayers Rock series, which he began in 1984, offered another obvious comparison. These are clearly Australian paintings, suggesting in technique and subject that he has learnt much from older local painters like Fred Williams. The pictures are striking in their size and fluency, but that does not quite justify the reverence with which they are usually greeted. They seem spread thin not only in physical paint, but also in their inspiration: decorative, but lacking in intensity of response.

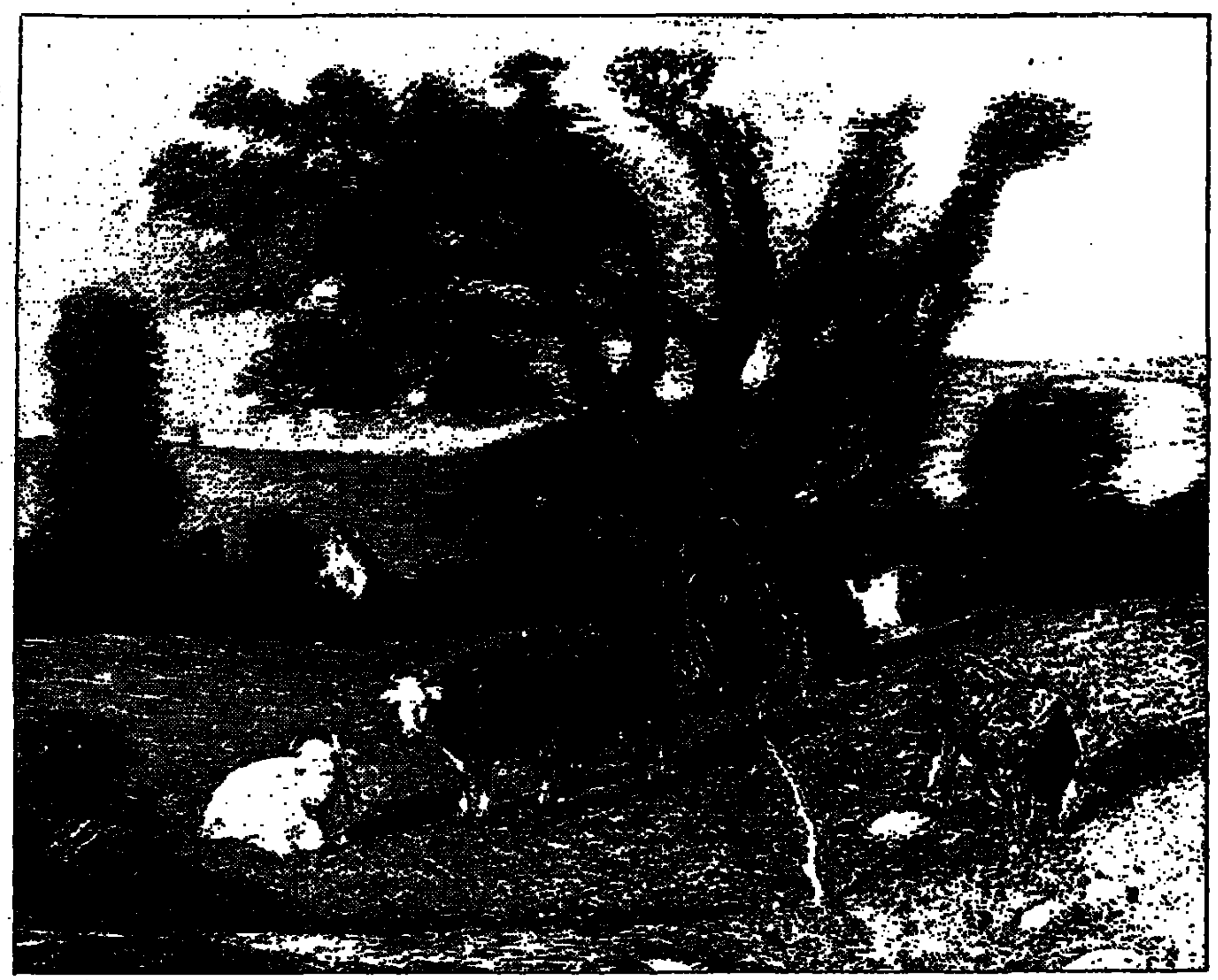
Nobody could say that of Ryder. These generally small paintings — a fraction of the smallest Andrews — are dark, obscure and difficult. They could easily arouse dislike, but are difficult to shrug off.

Ryder lived long enough (1847-1917) to be embraced, rather to his surprise, by the American avant-gardists who created a sensation at the Armory Show in 1913. He was largely self-taught and, apart from some youthful travels to North Africa, lived mostly as a semi-recluse in America. He was, however, conscious of what was going on elsewhere, though he filtered everything through his own literary sensibility. From early days he experimented wildly with his painting materials, with results which have proved disastrous to many mature works but have also added to his mysterious aura. The large retrospective that toured the United States last year was said to constitute the last likely chance of seeing many of his paintings before irreversible decay supervened.

> *Ryder lived long enough to be embraced, rather to his surprise, by the American avant-gardists*

The Whitechapel show has been selected, with great discrimination, from this larger show. It includes about as many genuine Ryders as the American show had annexed fakes. (Surprisingly, Ryder was eventually so sought-after that he often attracted the forger's attentions.) Among the most famous are the later seascapes such as "Moonlight" and "With Sloping Mast and Dipping Prow": dark, intense, verging on abstraction. How their present state corresponds with Ryder's intentions is impossible to know. But it is a sobering thought that when Roger Fry said that Ryder was an "undeniable genius", his opinion was reached on the evidence of pictures very different from the way they look today.

Whichever way the pictures on the walls arrived there, their power to haunt the imagination remains undimmed. Maybe some special knowledge of Ryder and his legend is desirable in order to feel them at full force, but even in 1991 Britain he is clearly perceived as not a nobody.



Could arouse dislike, but difficult to shrug off: "Pastoral Study", by Albert Pinkham Ryder, at the Whitechapel

If there were any doubt about that, Bill Jensen is here to set the record straight. The 45-year-old painter from Minneapolis is having his first one-man show in London, at the Grob Gallery. Even in America he is not well known; he is a painter's painter, much admired by his peers and well represented in public collections all over the United States. For a New York-based painter he is unusually shy and scholarly, a slow worker who may mull over one canvas for seven years.

He is also unusually conscious of where he fits into a certain American tradition: that of artists such as Marsden Hartley and Arthur Dove, and before them Albert Pinkham Ryder. They all teetered on the brink of abstraction, and when they toppled over into it, always cultivated the sort of organic abstraction which is hardly distinguishable (and should hardly be distinguished) from depiction of external reality seen through unfocused eyes.

To the Romantic sensibility Jensen may sound suspiciously intellectual. But he has a rare ability to theorise about the finished paintings, suggest connections as they occur to him, and yet keep his access to the great world of instinct uncluttered. A characteristic Ryder now gives that impression by accident; Jensen achieves the same effect entirely by design.

Michael Andrews/Albert Pinkham Ryder Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1 (071-377 0107), Tues-Sun 11-5 (Wed to 8), until March 24.
Bill Jensen Grob Gallery, 20 Dering Street, W1 (071-493 6732), Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 110-1, until March 15.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ALL MADE NEW: The latest part of the National Gallery's progressive refurbishment opens today. The old Western galleries, which will soon constitute the link with the new extension, have been partly remodelled, partly restored to the way they looked in 1911. The largest gallery now called the Wohl Room, houses large Venetian paintings, and the cabinet rooms contain small Dutch. The green damask backgrounds work amazingly well.
National Gallery Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321) Mon-Sat 10-6, Sun 2-6.

GOOD IMPRESSIONS: Few private collections put together so recently can match the wonders of the Emil G. Bührle Collection of Zurich. The present loan is not to be missed, by anyone interested in major Impressionists, important German moderns, or just superlative painting of any era.
Great Impressionists and other Master Paintings Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438) daily 10-6, until April 14.

RECORDS: ROCK AND JAZZ

Breezy blend with a Cuban flavour

Gloria Estefan: Into the Light (Epic 467782 1)
Roger McGuinn: Back From Rio (Arista 261 348)
Gary Burton/Paul Bley: Right Time, Right Place (Sonet CD1038)
Soprano Summit: In Concert (Concord CCD-4029)

Estefan: Chic blend of ballads, bounce and emotions

ONE of the more colourful middle-of-the-road performers, Gloria Estefan breezes back into circulation with a typically chic blend of ballads, bounce and beautiful emotions. **Into the Light** is an album which politely plays the field from the Carpenters-like plaint "Can't Forget You" to the faintly pneumatic dance-floor funk of "Seal Our Fate".

What sets Estefan apart from the Whitney Houstons and the Manilows is her innate feel for the propulsive salsa rhythms of her Cuban birthplace, backed by her band comprised of ex-Cuban musicians. It remains a formidable ensemble when let off the leash: witness "Light of Love" and "Mama Yo Can't Go", on which the celebrated trumpeter Arturo Sandoval turns in romping solo breaks that are among the album's high points.

Roger McGuinn, who was the primary force behind the soaring melodies and chiming guitar sound of the Byrds, has returned to the fray with **Back From Rio**, an album of considerable verve and charm. Contributions from Tom Petty — whose performing style was largely inspired by a study of McGuinn's back pages — David Crosby and Chris Hillman and others lend extra sparkle to a buoyant set which successfully evokes one of the most majestic and timeless formulas in modern rock.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ALMOST unnoticed, the pianist Paul Bley has been issuing a series of remarkably consistent albums, the contents as spare and sleek as a cobweb. By making a virtue of restraint — silence is a key component of his work — he has fashioned an recognisable voice: part romantic, part avant-garde.

Bley is scheduled to make a rare visit to London next month, appearing with reeds player Jimmy Giuffre and bassist Steve Swallow at the Camden Jazz Festival. In the interim, **Right Time, Right Place** forms a soothing curtain-raiser, Bley's elliptical phrasing matched against the professorial vibraphone solos of Gary Burton.

The well-judged selection, divided between duets and solo performances, is a feast of introspection. The mood is that of a friendly chess match between grandmasters; Bley and Burton are listening to each other intently, deliberating at length over every note.

The process is occasionally exhausting for us mere onlookers. Bearing that in mind, perhaps, the players allow themselves the indulgence of two familiar standards, "You Don't Know What Love Is" and Rodgers and Hart's "Isn't It Romantic?". Bley's ex-wife, the ever-eccentric Carla, is the composer on "Ida Lupino" and "Olhos de Gato".

Soprano Summit's album, **In Concert**, is another example of two astute musical brains working in harmony. The combination of reeds players Bob Wilber and Kenny Davern, recorded in California in 1976, yields the most unashamedly enjoyable re-issue in months.

Originally inspired by the vintage double-act of Sidney Bechet and Mezz Mezzrow, Soprano Summit made a substantial impact during its relatively brief life. While its prime inspiration lay in the past, its recordings were never dusty museum pieces. Buttressed by thoughtful and unfailingly swinging arrangements, the music-making seemed, on the surface at least, to require the minimum of perspiration.

Marty Grosz, Ray Brown and Jake Hanna are the perfect sidemen on a programme which opens with Duke Ellington's "Stompy Jones" and closes, aptly enough, with "Swing that Music". Alternating between soprano saxophone and clarinet, Wilber and Davern strike sparks off every tune without resorting to festival-circuit clichés. The eight and a half minutes of "The Grapes are Ready" are a textbook example of how to weave magic from the skimpiest of themes.

CLIVE DAVIS

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Less is more in these lean times

Richard Morrison finds the London orchestras in spirited form this week

First, a comparison. In Chicago last night, music-lovers could hear their city's great orchestra play Prokofiev, Mendelssohn and Hindemith. They could also hear the same programme tonight, and again tomorrow, and on Sunday. That is the pattern throughout North America: one well-rehearsed programme per week to accommodate all subscribers.

At the Festival Hall in London, this was also an ordinary week. On Monday Mozart and Stravinsky were played by the London Philharmonic; on Tuesday, the Philharmonia mixed new British music with Elgar and Dvořák; on Wednesday the Royal Philharmonic brought in Borodin, Mussorgsky and Prokofiev . . . and so on. Different repertoire and performers each night — and, of course, hot competition from the Barbican. It is a consumer's paradise, so naturally the plan is to change it.

London is moving towards the American model: more repeats, less choice. Of course, few people except critics go to more than one concert a week anyway. But the real reason for the revolution is a "quality" argument: if there is less repertoire to prepare, won't playing standards rise?

Up to a point, Lord Palumbo. So much depends on one big gamble: how the gifted but inexperienced Franz Welser-Möst directs the Festival Hall's newly resident orchestra, the London Philharmonic. Monday's concert was instructive, since Welser-Möst programmed Mozart's Divertimento in D: an innocuous title which masks a fiendish test for string players.

The LPO violins held together, mostly, with admirable discipline. There was vitality in the phrasing, and mercurial passagework had clearly been rehearsed diligently. Yet an unsatisfying aura pervaded: this was a London orchestra striving to play quintessential Viennese repertoire like the Vienna Philharmonic, and not quite succeeding. The double basses were even lined up along the back of the platform, Viennese style. If that is indicative of Welser-Möst's goal, his LPO tenure might be frustrating, for him and us.

The Philharmonia's concert, under Giuseppe Sinopoli, contained one superb performance, and one fascinating one. The former was supplied by Heinrich Schiff, who did to Elgar's Cello Concerto what he did to Shostakovich's at last year's Proms: purged it of received notions, and recharged it with his own tensile incisiveness. Then came the young Scottish composer, James MacMillan, to conduct his orchestral piece *The Confession of Isobel Gowrie*. Premiered last August, it divides opinion sharply. MacMillan's response to gruesome subject-matter (the burning of a woman accused of witchcraft) is explicitly descriptive: modal and thickly-contrapuntal in lament; noisy as hell when the flames are licking the stake. I was gripped.

The Royal Philharmonic's spirited if occasionally untidy concert, under Vladimir Ashkenazy, continued its Prokofiev series — though on Wednesday the extracts from *War and Peace* and *Romeo and Juliet* were less impressive than Borodin's Second Symphony and Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death*, in the Shostakovich orchestrations which fit these settings as snugly as ice-cubes round a corpse. Here was surely the Russian soul from *alpha* to *omega*: the Borodin a quilt-work of exotic tunes; the Mussorgsky as gloomy as the grave. Ashkenazy conducted both stirringly, though the coal-toned bass soloist Nikita Storojev seemed too cheerful for Mussorgsky.

Audiences all week were good, considering how empty some West End theatres are. That is because orchestras had their subscribers and sponsors hooked before the recession took effect. The prospects for next year, however, strike more gloom into players' hearts than a Mussorgsky song-cycle. London's orchestras may again be playing the tune they know best: "survival comes first". The planned adventures may have to wait.

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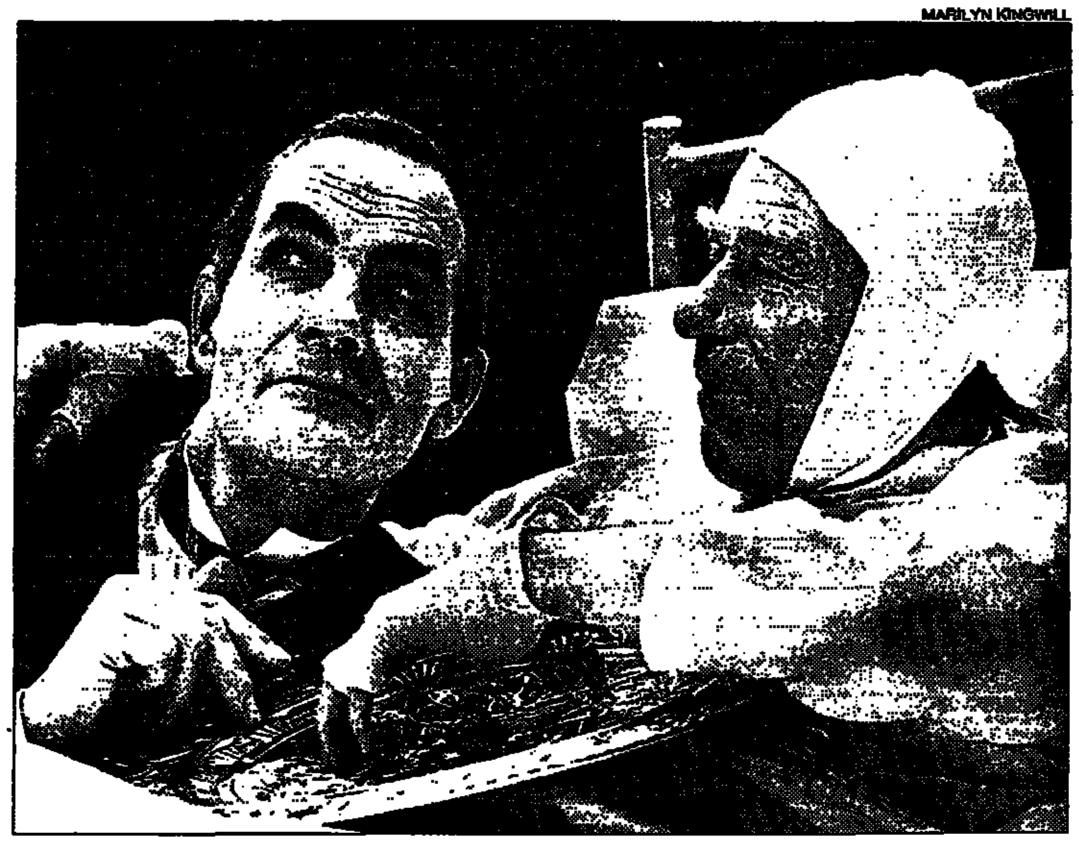
Cartoon without the punch

MARILYN KINGWILL



Victim and human fox: Gary Raymond, left, as Voltore and John Woodvine in the title role

THEATRE

Volpone
Lyric, Hammersmith

THE men wear bowlers, chain-encrusted leathers, clown-hats, grey macs, suits of implausible hues. The women go for red plastic skirts, silk petticoats, kewpie-doll frocks. They blow squeakers, explode party poppers, skip, shimmy, and skitter across a stage crammed with balloons and fairy lights. This is Ben Jonson's Venice; or the English Shakespeare Company's version of it.

Jonson's comedies certainly have their exorbitant, garish aspects. But there should be size, richness and satiric power in the caricature. Tim Luscombe's travelling production, briefly landed in downtown Hammersmith, too often reduces *Volpone* to a gaudy cartoon, attention-getting and morally null.

Yet the evening cannot be so simply summed up. It is stronger at the centre than at points nearer the rim. John Woodvine brings paradoxical weight to the role of Volpone, the human fox who cons respectable citizens out of their wealth and women by pretending to be a terminal invalid in search of heirs. One moment he is in bed with a drip in his arm, uttering senile bleats and tubercular grunts. The next, he is jubilantly transformed from old sheep to king of the jungle, a figure full of assurance and carnal gusto.

This performance deserves a less flip context, as do some others. Mosca, his sidekick, is played by Stephen Jameson as a smirking butler with the toughness and stealth successfully to cross the class barriers. Among Volpone's victims, Gary Raymond's chalk-faced Voltore could still be dustily ensconced in the Inns of Court, and Laurence Kennedy's Corvino, an upper-crust spiv in a mustard suit, misses none of the violence Jonson wrote into his role. On the contrary, he is a sadist and wife-beater, who threatens Lois Harvey's wan Celia with a hacksaw when he is not twisting her nose.

Yet here, as elsewhere, inventive interpretation is pushed too far. What are we to make of Celia's attempted seduction by a Volpone who sexily replaces his pyjamas with an embroidered red waistcoat and puffy yellow trousers that jointly leave him looking like a Turkish matador? "I will have thee in more modern forms," he cries, offering her black suspenders and a whip. Then across the stage, over the supermarket trolleys packed with gold bangles, swings a man inexplicably dressed as a vicar. It is the hero Bonario, come like some Anglican Tarzan to rescue his Jane.

Those who strain for laughs tend to miss them; and so it often turned out here. The evening fizzed along, sometimes becoming barely comprehensible in the verbal rush. Luscombe's staging of the Sir Politick Would-be subplot — that parody of super-subtle diplomacy — succeeded mainly in proving Nicholas Hytner right to have omitted it when he directed *Volpone* last year. But by then it was no surprise that Lady Would-be was being played as an American virago coyly passing herself off as a blend of Mae West and Doris Day. So much fun, so little of substance to show for it. Who would guess that this is Jonson's most scorching attack on human greed?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DANCE

Manon
Covent Garden

REMEMBER Antony Tudor's ballet *Gala Performance*? It may have been a comedy, but he got to the heart of what can stir up an audience: the conjunction of rival stars from different traditions. In the Royal Ballet's revival of *Manon* this season, audiences have seen the Italian ballerina and the French ballerina, and now comes the Russian to complete the trilogy. No wonder the houses have been not only packed but bursting to cheer.

Altynai Asylmuratova's reading of the character shows in the middle act a woman uneasy in herself. She loves her new riches; you can see that in the way she not so much walks on stage but positively oozes on in the smug luxury of her furs and jewels. She also relishes her power over all these men. But she is having to try very hard to convince them that she enjoys the way she earns these privileges, and even harder to convince herself, and in that she is not succeeding. This is a more conventional interpretation than the completely thoughtless creature that the choreographer envisaged, but when she dances it so deliciously, so richly, there can be no complaining. Only in the death scene was there a nagging thought that there is more depth for her yet to find in the part.

Is it that the stark horror which Sylvie Guillem has brought to the role has set an impossible comparison? Or is it that she needs a stronger foil than Robert Hill yet provides, dancing with great adroitness and a care for nuance, but (like others before him) letting Des Grieux come over as something of a wimp? Irek Mukhamedov, an impassioned Des Grieux last month, moves across to play Manon's brother this time. He brings out very clearly the quick switching between obsequiousness and bullying that makes Lescaut contemptible, but when it comes to the drunk scene he shows that his gift for acting includes a nice line in comedy. He goes straight for the humour in every gesture, besides dancing his terrifyingly off-balance solo with a virtuosity that looks casual, but cannot be.

JOHN PERCIVAL

RECITAL

Thomas Hampson
Wigmore Hall

A RECITAL by the American baritone Thomas Hampson promises much: when Mahler and *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* is programmed, expectations run even dangerously high. Not so long ago, Hampson's name seemed to be insufficiently teutonic to draw a capacity *Lieder* house. Now, after four years of increasingly front-line operatic and recital activity, albums of Broadway musicals, and, above all, an outstanding recording of diverse *Wunderhorn* settings, the time was ripe.

An audience of no uncertain quantity and quality arrived in the snow for Mahler's settings of the German folk poetry to which Hampson is so close. He sang Mahler's first five *Humoresken* in their original version for solo voice and piano and, for the first time in public, in the revision offered by the new Mahler Edition. The sequence was as the composer intended, the metronome markings meticulously observed, the idiomatic strength of the piano writing vindicated by Hampson's accompanist, Geoffrey Parsons.

Only the spirit was absent. Hampson, with his keen musical intelligence, spied out the criss-crossing ironies within each bittersweet song. The tone was right; but within the very nonchalance of "Wer hat dies Liedlein erdacht?" and the proud anguish of "Trost im Unglück" was a reticence of expression and a lack of mobility in the voice itself.

The sense of disappointment was the more acute simply because the Mahler came in the wake of three intensely characterised ballads by Mahler's precursor, Carl Loewe. Hampson excels in probing the dark and fearful shadows of the German tale-telling psyche, and his "Erlkönig" and the elfin death-dance "Herr Oluf" had rare presence. Hampson then turned to Schumann's *Dichterliebe*. Only because his musical sense and linguistic sensibility are so highly developed did one hope for something more: a moment of startled brightness, perhaps, and a degree more wonder within what at times seemed too much of an old song re-sung.

HILARY FINCH

JAZZ

Larry Adler
Pizza on the Park

ANYBODY looking for a slick cabaret show would do well to avoid Larry Adler's week-long stint at Pizza on the Park's Music Room. Those, on the other hand, who seek convivial company, a smattering of off-hand jokes and some mellifluous harmonica know where to find it.

The charm lies in the sneaking suspicion that the performance could fall flat on its face at any moment. Occasionally it does. Adler, who celebrates his 77th birthday next week, thrives on the sense of risk. Even his accompanist, the pianist Roy Budd, appeared nonplussed at times.

"You play what you want, and I'll follow" proved to be Adler's motto for the evening. An assured professional, Budd rose to the challenge, though there was a moment's hesitation when his employer requested Ravel's *Bolero*. As Budd essayed a few tentative bars, he received a cheerful rebuke: "It's not a tango, schmuck." In the end we were treated to the spectacle of Adler joining in on the digitally programmed Disklavier — a 21st-century version of the old-fashioned pianola — and shouting out the cue for the modulation.

There was nothing particularly startling about the choice of jazz material. "Round Midnight" and "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" may have been predictable opening numbers, but the sensitive interpretations dispelled any misgivings. Though the mouth organ is not the most expressive of instruments, Adler often succeeds in conveying more feeling than musicians who have far greater resources at their disposal.

The Disklavier came into action on a medley featuring "Begin the Beguine". In a touch of music hall, Budd disappeared at this point, returning with a newspaper in which he ostentatiously tackled the crossword. Yet for all the new technology, the most affecting music came at the very end as Adler, left alone on stage, played a brief selection from *Porgy and Bess*, accompanying himself with one hand on the keyboard with the gentlest of broken chords.

CLIVE DAVIS

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

DANCES WITH WOLVES (12): Kevin Costner as the Civil War lieutenant sucked into the Sioux's way of life. Over-reverent, though Costner mounts his directorial debut with aplomb.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324) Warner (071-439 0791).

DECEMBER BRIDE (PG): Irish tale of a strong-willed servant girl; bogged down by dour atmosphere, but enlivened by Saskia Reeves. Director, Thaddeus O'Sullivan.
Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661).

DUCKTALES: THE MOVIE — TREASURE OF THE LOST LAMP (U): Disney cartoon feature with Scrooge McDuck: crammed with gags, but lacking a vital spark. Director, Bob Hathcock.
Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

SHORT TIME (12): Dabney Coleman as a cop who believes he has a fatal illness. Ignore the sentiment and savour the black comedy. Director, Gregg Champion.
Odeon Haymarket (071-839 7697).

STAYING TOGETHER (15): Trite drama of small-town America, with a jumbled script. With Sean Astin, Melinda Dillon. Director, Lee Grant.
Cannons: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Panton Street (071-930 0631).

◆ THREE MEN AND A LITTLE LADY (PG): Horrendous sequel to *Three Men and a Baby*, piled high with archaic comedy wheezes. With Tom Selleck, Ted Danson, Steve Guttenberg. Director, Emile Ardolino.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Leicester Square (071-930 6111) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

CURRENT

◆ AIR AMERICA (15): Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr as maverick pilots mired in an off-shoot of the Vietnam war. Loud, crass, and demeaning.
Odeon Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Plaza (071-497 9999).

◆ ARACHNOPHOBIA (PG): Deadly spiders rampage through a cosy Californian community. Enjoyable thriller filled with humour and suspense tricks.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeon Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ CATCHFIRE (15): Daft, ragged tale of a mob hitman (Dennis Hopper) falling in love when he should be killing the hit (Jodie Foster). Hopper also directs, under a pseudonym.
Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Gerard Depardieu masterful as the lovelorn, long-nosed Cyrano; director Jean-Paul Rappeneau transforms Rostand's play into magnificent, swashbuckling cinema.
Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742) Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0691) Renoir (071-837 8402).

THE GARDEN (15): The Passion according to Derek Jarman — a powerful, elegiac tapestry of scenes and images on death, religion and gay sex.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443).

THE GRIFTERS (18): Stephen Frears' disjointed version of Jim Thompson's con-artist thriller. John Cusack, Anjelica Huston, Annette Bening, stranded in a glossy limbo.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324) Warner (071-439 0791).

◆ HAVANA (15): Robert Redford as the gambler entranced by a mystery woman (Lena Olin) during Castro's revolution. Sluggish romantic drama with paper-thin characters. Director, Sydney Pollack.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ HOME ALONE (PG): Plucky kid left alone at Christmas wards off bumbling burglars. Broad, machine-tooled American family fun from writer-producer John Hughes.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Chelsea (071-352 5096) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Warner (071-439 0791) Odeon Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ KICKBOXER 2 (18): Action potboiler with a runt of a hero (Sasha Mitchell) and vicious fight sequences. Peter Boyle; director, Albert Pyun.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ KINDERGARTEN COP (12): Uptight cop (Arnold Schwarzenegger) becomes kindergarten teacher. Bland, cute comedy, awkwardly mixed with violent shoot-outs.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stillman's wickedly ironic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and preppies over one Christmas holiday. Witty dialogue, engaging young actors, elegant direction.
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Metro (071-437 0757) Minema (071-235 4225).

◆ MIRACLE MILE (15): Two shy lovers find their romance interrupted by an impending nuclear attack. Bright, stylish drama from promising director Steve De Jarnatt. Anthony Edwards, Mare Winningham.
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

NARROW MARGIN (15): Cat-and-mouse games on a train, with district attorney Gene Hackman, murder witness Anne Archer and the Mob. Diluted remake of a taut B-movie classic. Director, Peter Hyams.
Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631) Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

THE NASTY GIRL (PG): Provocative, funny assault on Germany's Nazi past, with Lena Stolze as the girl uncovering her home town's shady history.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (15): Caustic Tinseltown comedy, with a few tears, from Carrie Fisher's novel. Meryl Streep as the drug-abused actress; Shirley MacLaine as her mother. Director, Mike Nichols.
Barbican (071-638 8891) Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ REVERSAL OF FORTUNE (15): Jeremy Irons as the inscrutable Claus von Bulow, tried for the attempted murder of his wife. Brilliant unravelling of a recent enigma; director, Barbet Schroeder.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

◆ ROCKY V (PG): Sylvester Stallone fights his last battle for his family, career and spirit. Dim-witted end to the boxing saga. director, John Avildsen.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) West End (071-930 5252/7615) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London
■ House full, returns only
☒ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ ALL THINGS NICE: An accomplished cast badger Joanna Roth's frail waif with conflicting sexual signals: a self-discovery play by Sharman Macdonald.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Underground: Sloane Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 5mins. Extended to February 16.

☒ BETRAYAL: Pinter's backwards look at an adultery: gripping content, but awestruck production.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Underground: Highbury & Islington. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins. Closes March 2.

☐ CHILDREN OF EDEN: Genial musical jinks round Genesis, supplied by John Caird and Stephen Schwartz: rebel against your fathers emerges as the main theme.
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins.

☐ FALLEN ANGEL: The troubled reminiscences of Franz Fuhmann's communist academic and ex-Hitler youth; affecting performance by Boyd Clack.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Underground: Shepherds Bush. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Closes February 23.

■ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins.

☐ A FREE COUNTRY: Jews hiding in a farmhouse in Vichy France: disappointingly low-key drama.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Underground: Kilburn. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, Running time: 2hrs 45mins. Extended to March 9.

☐ GASPING: John Gordon Sinclair and Jim Carter in Ben Elton's greenish comedy. Rather over the top but lots of laughs.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Closes February 16.

☒ THE HOMECOMING: Warren Mitchell and others seducing and seduced by Cherie Lunghi in Peter Hall's Pinter revival.
Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☒ IMAGINE DROWNING: Simple comedy, moral confusion and marine baptism mix awkwardly in Terry Johnson's sententious drama.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Underground: Hampstead. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 20mins. Closes March 2.

☐ INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's witty mix of fairytales; grimmer than Grimm in the first half, turns sloshy thereafter.
Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-240 9661). Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins. Closes February 23.

☐ OUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden puffs, Michael Williams panics, in latest Ray Cooney farce: over-plotted, under-developed.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Underground: Holborn. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☒ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild, bold and bizarre; sometimes deafening rock musical.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins.

■ THREE SISTERS: Three Redgraves in admirable if over-busy production: Vanessa and Lynn outstanding as the older women.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-734 1166). Underground Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 3hrs. Closes March 2.

☐ TIME AND THE CONWAYS: Joan Plowright and lots of other Oliviers in Priestley's dullish play, set in 1919 (twice) and 1938.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Underground: Waterloo. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 35mins. Closes February 16.

☐ WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Incest, assault and bisexual junketing preserved in the aspic of Joe Orton's wit. Not quite a top-class production but worth seeing.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5pm and 8.40pm. Running time: 2hrs.

☐ WHERE JULIE GONE: Jaqueline Harrison's poignant, anecdotal account of life as an unsatisfied wife, waitress and model.
Hen & Chickens, Highbury Corner, N1 (071-359 1030). Underground: Highbury & Islington. Tues-Sun, 8pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Closes February 16.

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ Absurd Person Singular: Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . . ■ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ☒ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) . . . ☒ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ■ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . ☐ Hidden Laughter: Vaudeville (071-836 9987) . . . ☐ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . . ☒ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) . . . ☐ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . . ☐ A Slice of Saturday Night: Arts (071-836 2132) . . . ☒ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ☐ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

TODAY'S EVENTS

WORDS AND MUSIC FROM THE YEAR 1772: Simon Russell Beale, rising star of the Royal Shakespeare Company, impersonates Mozart, and John Carlisle plays Leopold Mozart in this evening of Mozart's letters, interspersed with his four early "Milan" quartets. The Allegri Quartet provides the music.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), 7.45pm.

DUKE BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE/OEDIPUS REX: English National Opera's new coupling of Bartók's parable and Stravinsky's retelling of the Oedipus myth, directed by David Alden and designed by Nigel Lowery. Out of the two, the Bartók has gained more praise, with Mark Elder's powerful handling of the dramatic score and outstanding performances by Sally Burgess (Judith) and Gwynne Howell (Duke Bluebeard). Philip Langridge and Jean Rigby sing the leads in the Stravinsky.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), 7.30pm.

JESUS JONES: The neurotically energetic, "international bright young things", fresh from their much-applauded appearance at last month's Great British Music Weekend, begin a UK tour touting a new album, *Doubt*. Tomorrow the band plays at Dublin's SFX before arriving at Leeds Polytechnic on Monday.
Queen's University, University Road, Belfast (0232 324603), 8pm.

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Andrew Davis steps in to replace German conductor Günter Wand to conduct tonight's concert which is now Bruckner's Symphony No 8.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm.

THE FEVER: Wallace Shawn's powerful 100-minute monologue, also written by him, brings the unpalatable truths of privilege powerfully home to base. Recommended.
Cottesloe Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252), 7.30pm.

ELLIOTT CARTER FESTIVAL: Pianist Ursula Oppens tackles the composer's Sonata and Night Fantasies, in between Schumann's Sonata No 2 in G minor, Op 22 and Beethoven's Fantasie, Op 77.
Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 8pm.

TOMORROW'S NEW COMMUNITIES EXHIBITION: This exhibition reveals developers' proposals for a variety of community projects happening or about to happen in Britain — a fenland village in Cambridgeshire and a township near Peterborough are two examples.
Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 6844), until tomorrow.

ALAN REYNOLDS — RELIEF CONSTRUCTIONS AND DRAWINGS: Alan Reynolds first attracted attention in the Forties with tight, spiky drawings and paintings of landscape and plant. In the late Fifties he dismayed admirers with geometrical abstraction, but the delicacy and sensitivity are still there in full measure.
Annely Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering Street, London W1 (071-629 7578), until March 2.

CLOSING NUMBER: A physical-theatre collaboration between Hesitate and Demonstrate and Shared Experience, directed by Yugoslavia's Mladen Materic, receives its world premiere in Leicester. The work is about a womaniser (Phil Daniels), a wife (Denise Wong of Black Mime Theatre) and a young woman (Kate Francis).
Phoenix Arts Centre, 11 Newarke Street, Leicester (0533 555627), 8pm.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

PULKA
(c) A Laplander's boat-shaped sledge, drawn by a single reindeer, from the Lappish *balkke*: "In a trice he had put on her gay red-and-blue harness and fastened the traces to a pulka, the canoe-like little sledge of north-east Lapland."

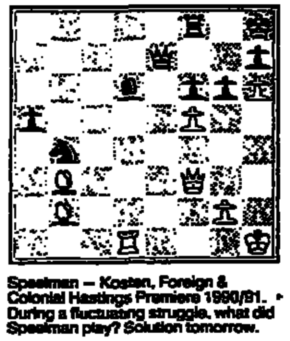
PARANG
(b) A heavy Malay knife, from the Malay: "A full-blooded amok, slaughtering every man, woman and child in reach with the snaky kris or the curved parang."

CHITTAGONG
(a) An Indian variety of domestic fowl, from Chittagong in Bangladesh: "The Chittagong or Malay, another Indian variety, is, as a contrast to the Bantam, probably the largest of the Gallinaceous tribe."

PABOUCHE
(c) An Oriental heelless slipper, also *babouche*, *babuche*, *baboosh* from the Persian *pa* foot + *push* covering: Walter Scott: "I always drink my coffee as soon as my feet are in my pabouches; it's the way all over the east."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



Speelman — Kosten, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1990/91. During a fluctuating struggle, what did Speelman play? Solution tomorrow.

Jonathan Speelman is playing against Nigel Short for a place in the quarter finals of the world championships at Watson, Farley & Williams in The Minories.

Yesterday's solution: 1 Qf8 threatening 2 Qxh6 and 2 Rxg7+. Black played the forced 1 ... Kh8 2 Rxg7 Qxh6, sacrificing his queen, but eventually managed to draw.

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

THEATRES

COMEDY B.O 071 867 1045/1111cc Also CC (no bkg fee) 071 379 4444/497 9977 793 1000 "STUNNING... A POWERFUL EVENING" Mail THE PETER HALL COMPANY WARREN MITCHELL CHERIE LUNGHI The HOMECOMING by HAROLD PINTER Directed by Peter Hall "DISTURBINGLY HILARIOUS" Indep Eves 8.00. MATS WED 3.00. SAT 5.00

GARRICK BO & CC 071 379 6107 cc 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 240 7200/793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 930 6123 THE REHEARSAL by JEAN ANOUILH "SHOULD BE SEEN" FT Eves 7.45 Sat 4 & 8 Mat Tue 3

MAP OF THE HEART

LONDON PALLADIUM BO & CC 071 437 7373 071 437 2055 CC 24hrs 071 497 9977 (no bkg fee) 071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) Groups 071 240 7941 RUSS ABBOT'S PALLADIUM MAD HOUSE The New All laughter Spectacular Evgs 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30. FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY

OLD VIC Box Office & CC 071 928 7616 CC (bkg fee) 240 7200/379 4444/793 1000 Grps 930 6123 Mon-Fri 7.30, Wed mat 2.30. Sat 4.00 & 7.45 JOAN PLOWRIGHT "A great actress at the very peak of her powers" Sun Exp in TIME & THE CONWAYS Directed by Richard Olivier "DESERVES TO BE A SELL-OUT" Daily Express LAST TWO WEEKS

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CINEMAS

CONCERTS

EVENTS

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BBC 1

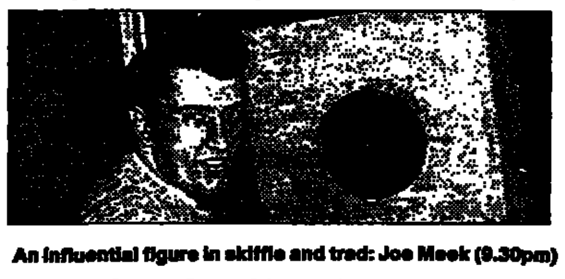
6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News. The overnight news from the Gulf, analysis and comment. With Laurie Mayer and Jill Dando
9.15 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk hosts a studio discussion on wedding days 9.55 Regional News and weather
10.00 News 10.05 Playdays 10.30 Dish of the Day prepared by Rosemary Moon 10.40 Brainwave. Quiz game presented by Andy Craig
11.00 News, regional and weather 11.05 People Today with Adrian Mills and Debi Jones. Includes the *Children Today* slot presented by Martin Duffy
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Royal Appointment. The first of a new series introduced by the Queen's former press secretary Ronald Allison. Today he talks to Lord Linley about his furniture-making business and some of his unusual commissions, including a bed for the singer Elton John 12.20 Scene Today 12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Weather 1.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax)

Début as a working-class rebel: Tom Courtenay (1.50pm)

1.50 Film: The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner (1962, b/w)
● *CHOICE: Films such as this were all the style in the British cinema of the early Sixties, as it wallowed in the "realism" of location shooting and rebellious working-class heroes. The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner was adapted by Alan Sillitoe from his short story about a borstal boy and talented athlete (Tom Courtenay) who uses a cross-country race as a way of spiting the governor (Michael Redgrave). The critics were cool about the film, perhaps because they had had their fill of working-class rebels by this time. More justifiable was the attack on the stylistic tricks of the director, Tony Richardson, which seemed to have been imported wholesale from the French new wave. But for all that the film still has its qualities, not least Courtenay's performance. It was his first screen role and he brought to it the nervous, likeable charm that was soon to make him one of the faces of the decade. (Ceefax)*
3.30 Sheriff Hoot Cloot. Cartoons 3.50 Corners. Inquisitive children's questions answered by Sophie Aldred and Stephen Johnson 4.05 Jackanory. Jane Asher with the last part of *The Princess and the Goblin*, by George MacDonald 4.20 Fantastic Max. Cartoon series about a bionic baby 4.30 Eye Spy. Code-cracking, observation and spy-catching detection tests introduced by Julian Parkin
4.55 Newsround Extra 5.10 Grange Hill. Episode ten. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather
6.35 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.05 Wogan. With George Layton, Robin Nedwell and Geoffrey Davies, soon to be seen in the new comedy series *Doctor at the Top*, *Bergerac* star Terence Alexander and Clive Anderson, who takes over on Monday when Terry goes on holiday. Music is provided by the Railway Children
7.40 Brush Strokes. Karl Howman as the painter and decorator, looking for his perfect woman in Motspur Park (r). (Ceefax)
8.10 Over My Dead Body. Standard American crime series with Edward Woodward as the ex-Scotland Yard man turned thriller writer turned amateur sleuth, teaming up with a young journalist (Jessica Lundy). (Ceefax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 The Boys from the Bush. Patchily funny comedy about an Australian detective agency starring Chris Haywood and Tim Healy (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: The Show
10.20 Kane and Abel. The third and final episode of the lumpish mini-series based on Jeffrey Archer's blockbuster tale of tycoon rivalry, starring Peter Strauss and Sam Neill (r) Northern Ireland: The Boys from the Bush 11.05-12.35 Kane and Abel
11.50 Gulf News
12.00 Snooker. Highlights of the last quarter-final match of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament from Wembley
1.10am Gulf News 1.15 Weather

BBC 2

8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on Two: Everyday maths 9.10 For business and industry teachers 9.40 Health studies 10.00 Learning to read 10.20 The Caledonians and the Romans 10.40 Music: vocal sounds 11.00 Modern flight 11.15 Maths 11.30 GCSE German 11.45 A visit to Rhum island, owned by the Nature Conservancy Council 12.00 Science in sport 12.20 British Asian teenagers talk about racial harassment 12.50 An extract from Dickens's *Great Expectations* 1.20 The Brollys narrated by David Shaw Parker 1.40 Teenagers discuss the pros and cons of zoos
2.00 News and weather followed by Words and Pictures (r) 2.15 Weekend Outlook (r)
2.20 Sport on Friday. Football: highlights of the week's international friendlies; and Snooker: the Benson and Hedges Masters. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.55
5.00 News followed by Holiday 91 (r) (Ceefax)
5.30 Food and Drink (r)
6.00 Film: Kings of the Sun (1963). Yul Brynner and George Chakiris star in a heavy-going Western which charts the arguments between a group of exiled Mayans and native American Indians and how they finally come to live peacefully together in what comes to be known as Mexico. Directed by J. Lee Thompson. Wales: A Way with Numbers 6.25 Espana Viva 6.50 A vous la France! 7.15 Wales in Westminster
7.45 What the Papers Say. With Julian Nundy of the *Independent on Sunday*
8.00 Public Eye: Deportation — an Unjust System? An examination of the circumstances surrounding the possible deportation of Iraqi nationals and Palestinian exiles currently detained in British jails. Among those interviewed is the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham
8.30 Gardens by Design. In the last of his series, gardens expert David Stevens compares Stowe's landscaped garden with domestic plots. (Ceefax)
9.00 Lazarus and Dingwall. Lukewarm comedy series about two unconventional detectives starring Mark Arden and Stephen Frost, the likely lads from the Carling Black Label adverts. (Ceefax)

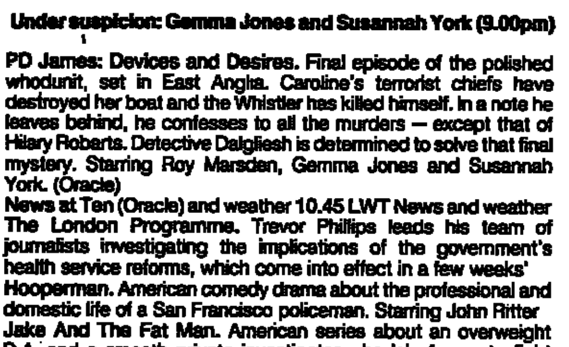


An influential figure in skiffle and trad: Joe Meek (9.30pm)

9.30 Arena: The Strange Story of Joe Meek.
● CHOICE: A strange story indeed, providing Alan Lewens's film with rich if not always edifying material. A song-writer and pioneer independent record producer, Meek was one of the most influential figures in the skiffle and trad movements of the late Fifties. In one or other of these guises he was responsible for such hits as "Telstar", "Cumberland Gap" and "Lay Down Your Arms". Recording took place in his drab north London flat with the drummer often relegated to the bathroom. In 1967 Meek shot and killed his landlady and then turned the gun on himself. It was an explosive end to a bizarre and troubled life. Brought up by his mother as a girl, Meek was a homosexual during an intolerant period and led a shadowy existence that took him into the criminal underworld. The hatred of rival record producers brought on a paranoia that may have contributed to his early death
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman 11.20 Weather
11.25 Absurdistan.
● CHOICE: One of the best remembered of the BBC's fortnight of programmes on Czechoslovakia screened last May is this wry documentary about the incongruities of communist rule. There is the story of Pavel Sefter, a university lecturer who found himself demoted to cleaning windows. He cheerfully accepted his lot and treated the job as a surrogate freedom. At least, he says, he was not being shut up in a dark room. More sad than absurd was the fate of Marta Kubisova, a popular singer who was blacklisted and forced to work as a clerk. In November 1989 she enjoyed an emotional rehabilitation when she sang to the crowds in Wenceslas Square. But the choicest item is about the Stalin monument in Prague, which was demolished when its subject fell out of favour. The bizarre sight of a huge Stalin head being carried round the city on the back of a lorry gives the programme a running gag worthy of Jacques Tati (r)
12.45am Film: Waltz of the Toreadors (1962). Peter Sellers as the saucy retired general who cannot keep his eyes off the girls in a misconceived anglicised version of a Jean Anouilh comedy. With Dany Robin and Margaret Leighton. Directed by John Guillermin. Ends at 2.30

ITV

6.00 TV-am
9.25 ITN Gulf News Report. Latest news and developments from the war zone 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . Anna Soubry hosts another edition of the discussion series
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine programme presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Lesley Ebbetts brings the latest fashion news and Andrew Collinge gives advice on how to get your hair in perfect condition
12.05 Rainbow. Young children's entertainment 12.25 Thames News and weather
12.30 News and weather
1.20 Home And Away. Australian soap 1.50 A Country Practice. Drama serial about a rural Australian community health centre
2.20 Thames Action. Consumer magazine presented by Viv Taylor Gee and Jacqui King 2.50 Give Us A Clue. Michael Parkinson hosts the celebrity charades game. Team leaders Lionel Blair and Liza Goddard are joined by Vicki Michelle, Hilary O'Neil, Paula Wilcox, Tony Slattery, Nino Firetto and Bernie Winters
3.15 Gulf News Report 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian drama which follows the personal and private lives of staff and patients in a large city hospital
3.55 Utterly Brilliant. Timmy Mallet meets mime artist David Glass 4.20 Warner Brothers Cartoon 4.30 Fun House. Slapstick game show
5.00 Home And Away (r)
5.30 News (Oracle) and weather
6.00 The Day. An important 24 hours in the life of a member of the public
6.05 6 O'Clock Live includes a report on unemployment among white collar workers in the southeast
7.00 The $64,000 Question. Bob Monkhouse hosts the quiz in which contestants can win up to £6,400
7.30 Coronation Street. More drama from the residents of Weatherfield. (Oracle)
8.00 Gulf Report followed by Watching. Laboured northern sitcom about an ill-matched couple (Paul Bown and Emma Wray), which still manages to draw huge audiences. Malcolm is feeling nervous as the wedding day looms and not even David's assurances that everything will go as planned can ease his mind. (Oracle)
8.30 Surgical Spirit. Robust medical comedy with Nichola McAuliffe as the imperious surgeon. Sheila and Joyce decide to have a break from the stress of working in the hospital and go on a girls' night out. Their antics result in an admirer landing up in hospital. (Oracle)



Under suspicion: Gemma Jones and Susannah York (9.00pm)

9.00 PD James: Devices and Desires. Final episode of the polished whodunit, set in East Anglia. Caroline's terrorist chiefs have destroyed her boat and the Whistler has killed himself. In a note he leaves behind, he confesses to all the murders — except that of Hilary Roberts. Detective Dalgliesh is determined to solve that final mystery. Starring Roy Marsden, Gemma Jones and Susannah York. (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten (Oracle) and weather 10.45 LWT News and weather
10.50 The London Programme. Trevor Phillips leads his team of journalists investigating the implications of the government's health service reforms, which come into effect in a few weeks'
11.20 Hooperman. American comedy drama about the professional and domestic life of a San Francisco policeman. Starring John Ritter
11.50 Jake And The Fat Man. American series about an overweight D.A. and a smooth private investigator who join forces to fight crime. Jake discovers McCabe has an estranged son. With William Conrad and Joe Penny
12.50am Dirty Dancing. Television series based on the hit film. Stars Patrick Cassidy and Melora Hardin
1.25 The James Whale Radio Show. Entertainment, music and debate. Hosted by the obnoxious Mr Whale
2.25 Word of Mouth. Poetry series presented by comedian John Hegley
2.55 Raw Power. Rock videos
4.00 CinemAttractions. The latest from the American box office.
4.30 Ski Tips presented by Andy Steggall and Liz Wickham
5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 Channel 4 News summary
12.05 The Parliament Programme. Reports from both houses, with analysis and interviews, presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children.
2.00 The Complete Skier. Tips for skiers, from beginners to experts
2.30 Film: I Never Sang for My Father (1970). After the death of his mother, a middle-aged widower (Gene Hackman) is left to look after his cantankerous father (Melvyn Douglas) who tries to prevent him remarrying. Solid adaptation of a play by Robert Anderson which brought Oscar nominations for the two stars. Directed by Gilbert Cates.
4.10 The Extinct World of Gloves. Animated short
4.30 Countdown. The words and numbers game hosted by Richard Whiteley. With actor Simon Williams in the dictionary corner
5.00 Not on Sunday. Includes a discussion on the implications of separatist state-supported religious schools. With Baroness Cox, Baroness Flather and Mosen Yaseen. Plus a look at how Christians in Bristol tackle local community issues and a report on tai-chi, ancient spiritual balancing for body and soul
5.30 Sumo. Coverage from the Kokugikan arena in Tokyo for the Aki Basho in Japan's most ancient and ritualistic sport. Lyall Watson is the commentator.
6.00 Happy Days. Comedy from the American Fifties with Fonzie and the gang. In the second instalment of this three-part adventure, the Fonz awaits his screen test and, in the meantime, accepts a challenge to compete in a water skiing contest.
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are three British sumo wrestlers and Anthony H. Wilson, presenter of Channel 4's *Remote Control*. Music is provided by Carlton
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext)
7.50 First Reaction. Oleg Prokofiev talks about his composer father, Sergei, whose centenary is being celebrated this year
8.00 Brookside. Gritty soap about the residents of a Merseyside cul-de-sac. (Teletext)
8.30 Travelog. Alternative traveller's guide to holidays presented by Robert Elms. In this programme he shows how to be welcomed as a traveller in the rain forests of the Amazon basin as the Indian Waorani tribe host a special holiday in Ecuador
9.00 Cheers. Slick comedy about the staff and patrons of a Boston bar. Couch potato Norm is transformed into a crusader when he learns that his favourite restaurant and health hazard, the Hungry Heifer, is closing. (Teletext)
9.30 The Great Plant Collection. Roy Lancaster's search for unusual botanical collections takes him to Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire. It was here in 1829 that Robert Holford indulged his obsession for trees on the family estate. The collecting of new and rare trees continued down the generations and transformed open fields into the finest arboretum in Europe (r). (Teletext)
10.00 The Golden Girls: The President's Coming! The President's Coming! In a one-hour special to round off the current series, the Miami matrons take a stroll down memory lane. Their reminiscing is triggered by the visit of a secret service man who questions the women in case George Bush decides to call at their house for a photo opportunity on his way to opening a new centre for senior citizens. With Bea Arthur, Betty White, Rue McClanahan and Estelle Getty. (Teletext)

McShane, Merton, Clary (back), Anderson, Lawrence (11.00pm)

11.00 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Sketches and songs improvised with wit, speed and originality, so they hope, by Mike McShane, Josie Lawrence, Paul Merton and Julian Clary. Awarding points and grinning smugly is chairman Clive Anderson
11.30 The Word. Amanda De Cadenet talks to Harry Connick Jr and there are performances from Definition of Sound and Banderas. The studio guests include Frankie Howerd and Edwina Currie, MP
12.30am Channel 4 News — Midnight Special. Ends at 2.00

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 The Chef's Apprentice 5.00-5.30 Katts and Dog 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00 Anglia News 10.55 Cross Question 12.00 Friday the 13th 12.55am-1.25 Video View 2.25 America's Top Ten 2.55 In the Heat of the Night 3.50 Pop Profile 4.00-5.00 American College Football

BORDER

As London except: 6.00pm Lookaround Friday 6.30-7.00 Take the High Road 10.55 The World of Golf 11.25 Hardball 12.30am-1.25 The New Avengers 2.25 The Young Riders 3.20 Night Beat 4.20 Night Flight 4.45-5.00 In Profile

CENTRAL

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Gardening Time 5.00-5.30 My Secret Identity 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00 Central News 10.55 Central Weekend 12.25am-1.20 Prisoner: Cell Block H 2.25 Film: The Heavenly Body 4.10-5.00 The Hit Man and Her

GRANADA

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Wish You Were Here...? 5.00-5.30 Bratpack 6.00 Home and Away 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 10.55 Hooperman 11.25-1.25am Film: The Comeback 2.25 The Young Riders 3.20 Night Beat 4.20 Night Flight 4.45-5.00 Bob Geldof

HTV WEST

As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 HTV Sportsweek 10.55 Looking Back 11.25 Shifting Sands: The Life and Times of Harry Brown 11.55 Hooperman 12.25am-1.25 In the Heat of the Night 2.20 CinemAttractions 2.50 Film: The Torture Garden 4.30-5.00 Grand Ole Opry Live

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales At Six 6.30-7.00 Stopwatch 10.40 Elinor 11.25-11.40 Better Late

SCOTTISH

As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Scotland Today 6.30-7.00 Take the High Road 10.55 Scotsport Extra Time 11.25 The Funny Farm 11.55 Hooperman 12.25am NB 12.55-1.25 America's Top Ten 2.25 Film: Of Love and Desire 4.20 Scotland's Story 4.50-5.00 Jobfinder

TSW

As London except: 1.50pm The Sullivans 2.20-2.50 Cooking with Kurma 3.25-3.55 Home and Away 5.00-5.30 Who's the Boss? 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Discovering Gardens 10.55 Prisoner: Cell Block H 11.50 Hooperman 12.20am-1.25 *Extra Dimensions* 2.25 The Young Riders 3.20 Night Beat 4.20 Night Flight 4.45-5.00 Pop Profile

TVS

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Moneywise 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Coast to Coast Weekend Special 6.50-7.00 Police 5 10.55 Ski Tips 11.25 Tonight in Comedy 11.55 Hooperman 12.25am-1.25 Philip Marlowe: Private Eye 2.25 The Young Riders 3.20 Raw Power 4.20-5.00 Sally Jessy Raphael

TYNE TEES

As London except: 6.00pm Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Trailblazers 10.55 North Tonight 11.45-1.25am Film: Of Pure Blood 2.25 The Young Riders 3.20 Night Beat 4.20 Night Flight 4.45-5.00 Pop Profile

ULSTER

As London except: 1.50pm Sons and Daughters 2.20-2.50 Jimmy's 3.25-3.55 Glenroe 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Sportsbeat 10.55 Kelly 12.35am-1.25 Prisoner 2.25 The Young Riders 3.20 Night Beat 4.20 Night Flight 4.45-5.00 In Profile

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.55pm-2.50 Great Crusaders and Their Quests 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Country Challenge 10.55 Film: Men of the Dragon 12.20am-1.25 Friday the 13th — The Series 2.20 The Concert 3.15 Kojak 4.15-5.00 The Silk Road

S4C

Starts: 6.00am C4 Daily 9.25 Ysgolion 12.00 Sbectol 12.10pm Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.45 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Countdown 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Matters of Taste 2.30 Film: Tortilla Flat* 4.30 Slot 22 5.15 Brookside 5.45 Heno 6.00 Newyddion 6.15 Heno 6.40 Pobol Y Cwm 7.00 Dinas 7.30 Llygad Yr Haul 8.00 Cefn Gwlad 8.30 Newyddion 9.00 James Galway A'r Chieftains 10.00 Cheers 10.30 Just For Laughs 11.00 Whose Line Is It Anyway? 11.30 The Word 12.30am-2.00 C4 News

RTE 1

Starts: 12.15pm Dáil Report 12.30 Arts Express 1.00 News 1.45 Crusade in Europe 2.05 G.P. 3.00 Live at Three 4.00 News followed by Sons and Daughters 4.30 Knots Landing 5.20 Masterworks 5.30 The Sullivans 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 7.00 Fair City 7.30 An Invitation to Remember: Michael Hordern 8.00 Winning Streak 8.25 The Wine Geese 9.00 News 9.30 The Late Late Show 11.35 News followed by Midnight Caller 12.45am Close

NETWORK 2

Starts: 2.30pm Bosco 3.00 The Den 5.05 Jo-Maxi 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Cursai 7.30 Irma Milk Music Awards 9.00 Coronation Street 9.30 News followed by Alfred Hitchcock Presents 10.00 Film: The Wages of Fear 12.15am Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot 9.10 Jackpot 9.30 Here's Lucy 10.00 It's Your Round 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.20 Loving 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Punky Brewster 5.30 McHale's Navy 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 Growing Pains 8.00 Riptide 9.00 Hunter 10.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 11.00 The Deadly Ernest Horror Show 1.00am Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 5.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Today 6.00 International Business Report 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.00 International Business Report 11.30 Now Sir Robin 1.30pm NBC Today 2.30 Parliament Live 3.30 The Lords 4.00 International Business Report 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 7.30 International Business Report 8.30 Beyond 2000 11.30 NBC Nightly News 12.30am CBS News 2.30 European Business Today 3.30 CBS News 4.30 Health Circuit

SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase, incl at 7.40 Entertainment Tonight
10.00 Face to Face (1985): Light-hearted drama about a fossil scientist who travels to Africa for research, only to find a money-grabbing rival has taken her patch
11.55 Operation Petticoat (1959): Seaworthy comedy starring Cary Grant as a submarine captain
2.00pm Beaches (1988): Heartrending tale of a 30-year friendship between two women (Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey)
4.00 Bigfoot and the Muscle Machine: Monster trucks defend the Earth
4.55 The Wolverine: Space age cartoon
6.00 Ghost Chase (1988): A budding young film-maker discovers some unusual artefacts in his grandfather's attic
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Intimate Strangers (1986): Separated from his nurse wife in Vietnam, a doctor finds his romantic life in turmoil when she returns home. Starring Teri Garr and Stacy Keach
9.40 At the Pictures
10.00 Mississippi Burning (1988): Gene Hackman and Willem Dafoe head an FBI investigation into the murder of three civil rights workers in 1964
12.05am Running on Empty (1989): A couple are persecuted by government agents following their radical political activities in the Sixties, which has an acute effect on their teenage son (River Phoenix)
2.15 Taffin (1987): Pierce Brosnan's debt collector makes a stand against land developers in a small Irish town
4.00 Call Me (1987): A woman is plagued by a series of erotic phone calls. Ends at 5.30

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
5.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Today 6.00 DJ Kat 7.30 Eurobics 8.00 Handclimbing World Cup Final 9.00 Freestyle Skiing 9.30 Nordic Skiing 11.00 Eurobics 11.30 Equestrianism: Volvo World Cup 12.30pm Fencing 1.30 World Cyclocross Championships 2.30 Embassy World Championship Darts 3.30 Freestyle Skiing 4.00 Olympic Special: 16 Days of Glory 6.00 World Sports Special 7.00 Cycling: Commonwealth Bank Classic from Australia 8.00 WWF Survivor Series Wrestling 9.30 World Cup Today: Skiing 10.30 Nordic Skiing World Championships 11.00 Eurosport News 11.30 Mobil 1 Motorsport News 12.00 Ford Ski Report

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 7.00am Spain Spain Sport 7.15 US Pro Ski Tour 8.00 Sport en France 8.30 French Rugby League 10.00 Stop-USWA Wrestling: The Main Event 11.00 Ice Hockey NHL 1991 1.00pm US PGA Golf 3.00 Ice Skating Challenge of the Champs 4.00 Ice Racing Team World Championships 5.00 Stop — Mud and Monsters 6.00 NBA Basketball 8.00 Go 9.00 US Pro Boxing 10.30 Ice Hockey NHL 1991 12.30am Motor Sport Sunbank 24 Hours 2.30 US PGA AT&T Pebble Beach 4.30 World Snooker Classics 6.30 World of Champs

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am Great American Gameshows 11.15 Coffee Break 11.20 Everyday Workout 11.50 The Best of Europe 12.15pm Sally Jessy Raphael 1.05 Star Time 1.10 Search for Tomorrow 1.35 The Edge of Night 2.00 Divorce Court 2.25 Lifestyle Plus 2.35 Country Ways 3.05 Rafferty's Rules 3.55 Lifestyle Tea Break 4.05 Phyllis 4.35 Great American Gameshows 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 Close 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.45pm Naked City (1948): Two New York detectives investigate a murder
3.30 The Movie Show
4.00 The Dark Secret of Harvest Home — Part Two (1978): Starring Bette Davis and Rosanna Arquette
6.00 Bigfoot and the Hendersons (1987): America's equivalent of the Abominable Snowman crashes into the lives of an unsuspecting family and causes chaos
8.00 Jaws 4 — the Revenge (1987). Michael Caine and friends are terrorised by the great white shark in the Bahamas. Co-stars Lorraine Gary and Lance Guest
9.30 The Movie Show
10.00 Distant Thunder (1988): A Vietnam veteran decides to rejoin the outside world. Starring John Lithgow
12.00 Rattle and Hum (1988): A documentary of U2, filmed during their 1987 tour of the United States
1.40am Friday the 13th Part 6 (1986): Jason rises again to terrorise his killer. Ends at 3.15

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.30pm Racing Today 2.00 Basketball 3.30 Fishing the West 4.00 The IBM ATP Tennis Magazine 5.00 Waterskiing 6.00 Rodeo Championships 7.00 Sportstalk 7.30 Motor World 8.00 Snooker 10.00 This is the Sports Channel 11.00 Racing Today 11.30 Snooker

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
7.00am Twenty-one hours of rock and pop

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather; News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Fiala (Oboe Concerto in B flat: Polish CO); Poulenc (Sonata: Alan Civil, horn, John Wilbraham, trumpet, John Iveson, trombone)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Klengel (Hymnus: Cellists of the Berlin PO); Sibelius (Six humoresques: Berlin RSO); Villa-Lobos (Modinha; Canção do amor: William Bennett, flute, Simon Weinberg, guitar); Dukas (La Péri: Ulster Orchestra)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Witold Lutoslawski (Symphony No 1; Symphony No 3)
9.35 Mixed Muses: Debussy (Symphonic Suite, Printemps: ORTF National Orchestra under Martinon); Rossini (Sonata No 2 in A for strings: Berlin PO under von Karajan); Roussel (Serenade for flute, harp and string trio, Op 30: Academy of St Martin Chamber Ensemble); Holst (Battle Hymn; To the Unknown God, Hymns from the Rig Veda: Royal College of Music Chamber Choir; RPO under Willcocks); Ravel (Concerto in D for the left hand: Paris Orchestra under Martinon); Delius, arr Fenby (Late Swallows: Bournemouth Sinfonietta under Del Mar); Chopin (Ballade No 3 in A flat, Op 47: Jorge Bolet, piano); Brahms (Alto Rhapsody, Op 53: Prague Philharmonic Chorus; Czech PO under Sinopoli); Dvořák (String Quartet, Op 96, American: Hagen Quartet)
11.55 BBC Scottish SO under Takuo Yuasa, with Philip Martin, piano, performs Glinka (Kamarinskaya); Stravinsky (Circus Polka); Poulenc (Piano Concerto); Schubert (Symphony No 4)
1.00pm News
1.05 Chamber Music from Manchester: The Endellion String Quartet performs Beethoven (Quartet, Op 130 with Op 133 Grosse Fuge Finale)
2.00 Opera News (r)
2.45 Youth Orchestras of the (New) World: A survey of recent commercial recordings by student orchestras from north America. Roger Sessions (Suite, The Black Maskers: Juilliard Orchestra under Zukofsky); Franck (Le Chasseur maudit); Pierre Mercure (Kaléidoscope: Quebec Music Conservatoire Orchestra under Franz-Paul Decker); Copland (Connotations: Juilliard Orchestra under Ehrling)
4.05 Italian and Russian Songs: Felicity Palmer, mezzo, Graham Johnson, piano, perform Bellini (Vaga luna che inargenti; Per pietà, bell'idol mio; Ma rendi pur contento; Almen se non poss'io); Verdi (Deh, pietoso, oh Addolorata; Stornello; L'esule); Glinka (Barcarolle; The Lark; To Molly; Bolero); Borodin (Lullaby; To the Shore of the Far Away Homeland); Mussorgsky (The Orphan; Eremushka's Lullaby; Hopak) (r)
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure
6.30 The Honky-Tonk Man: In Francis Wilford Smith's fourth programme on blues pianists, he examines the work of Roosevelt Sykes from Arkansas
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear
7.30 BBC SO: Sixtieth Anniversary Season. Günter Wand conducts Bruckner (Symphony No 8)
9.00 Behind the Mask
● CHOICE: Winner of the 1988 Prix Italia, this Finnish Radio documentary about the carnival of Venice was recorded in the city at the height of the festivities. Recorded in Italian, moreover. Some of the language problems are resolved by Sara Kestelman's and Nickolas Grace's English translations, but Italian speakers in general and Venice-lovers in particular will be best placed to appreciate the subtleties of a feature that goes behind Pantaloon and Harlequin and the grotesque noses of the *commedia dell'arte* to study the essentially subversive nature of the carnival
9.45 Domus performs Mendelssohn (Piano Quartet No 3, Op 3); Weir (Serbian Cabaret); Brahms (Piano Quartet No 2, Op 26), incl 10.35 Interval Reading (r)
11.30 News
11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week: Mozart in 1789-90 (r)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)

RADIO 4

● FM: *Most scheduled programmes will be suspended to give news of the Gulf war. The following schedule, on MW and LW, is subject to alteration:*

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55, 8.58 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's castaway is Professor Ralf Dahrendorf (r)
9.45 Feedback: Chris Dunkley airs listeners' comments about BBC programmes and policy
10.00 News; Special Assignment
10.30 Morning Story: The Boatman, by Michael Munro. Read by James Bryce
10.45 Daily Service (s)
11.00 News; Mummies
● CHOICE: With the matter-of-factness you would normally expect when being told how to prepare the Christmas turkey, an Egyptology contributor to this appetite-depressing feature on post-mortem rituals in ancient Egypt describes how the brain was sometimes removed by poking a rod up the corpse's nostrils and breaking up the grey matter into gobbets. Better that, though, than scraping out the internal organs with a ripping tool inserted in a convenient orifice. More sophisticated methods are adopted these days at the British Museum where 500 BC mummies can be fingerprinted, and the DNA in mummified tissue identified
11.47 Folk on 4: Dancing Daft. The first of six programmes in the company of people who know how to enjoy themselves
12.00 News; You and Yours: A report on racism in rented accommodation
12.25 The Food Programme: Presented by Derek Cooper. How children in France and Japan learn about food 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Woman's Hour: From Belfast. Includes an interview with Professor Susan McKenna-Lawlor, whose space research company is designing and manufacturing instruments for the 1994 space probe to Mars; and there is a report on a breakthrough into ovarian cancer
3.00 News; Classic Serial: The Forsyte Chronicles: Episode 19 of a 23-part adaptation of John Galsworthy's saga (r)
4.00 News
4.05 Family Fortunes: Who Needs 'Em? The fifth of six programmes in which Phil Smith examines working-class family life in the north through three generations
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Includes a review of Kenneth MacMillan's ballet *Winter Dreams*; and the ragtime guitarist John James performs live in the studio
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Financial Report
6.30 Going Places: Janet Trewin presents the travel and transport magazine
7.00 News
7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week (s)
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Chester by Robin Cook, MP, shadow health and social services secretary; Dr David Owen, MP; Dr Maha Azam, research fellow at the Institute of Strategic Studies; and Andrew Neil, editor of the *Sunday Times*
8.50 Law in Action
9.15 Kaleidoscope: Living History. When actors portray a real person, how close do they get to the character? (r)
9.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Carol, by Patricia Highsmith (2 of 12)
11.00 Week Ending: A satirical review of the week's news
11.25 The Financial Week
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.30am Gary King 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '91 6.00 Round Table 7.30 The Essential Selection with Pete Tong 10.00 The Friday Rock Show with Tommy Vance 12.00-2.00am Andy Peebles Soul Train

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Steve Madden 6.00 Ken Bruce 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Nanette Newman 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford 4.00 Ronnie Hilton 5.05 Des Lynam 7.00 Journey into Space: The Red Planet (7 of 20) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night: Live from the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, with the BBC Concert Orchestra under Kenneth Alwyn, incl 8.20 Interval 9.30 Listen to the Band with Roy Newsome 10.00 The Radio 2 Arts Programme John Florance reports from Birmingham 12.05am Jazz Parade with Peter Clayton 12.35-4.00 Andrew Lane with Night Ride

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 Schools 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.40 This Family Business, incl 11.00 Sport 12.00 News; Sport 12.30pm The National Children's Orchestra 1.00 Sport 1.05 As Radio 3 2.00 Sport 2.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 2.30 World Service: Meridian Books 3.00 Sport 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Sport 4.05 Caribbean Magazine 4.35 Five Alive 7.20 The Year in San Fernando (final part) 7.35 Mission Investigates Nuclear Fusion. The second of a six-part series with private investigator Ed Mission 8.00 Afro-Pop 9.00 In the Hot Seat: Designer Jeff Banks 9.30 Rave, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 11.08 World Service: Worldbeat 11.23 From the Weeklies 11.38 The World Today 11.53 Words of Faith 11.58-12.05am Sports Desk

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.58 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 World News 7.15 24 Hours 7.30 The Reith Lectures Interview 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 World News 9.15 Jazz Now and Then 9.30 Financial News 9.39 Sports Roundup 9.45 Seven Seas 10.00 World News 10.15 Focus on Faith 10.30 The Story of Western Music 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Midi Magazine 11.59 Travel News 12.00 World News 12.15pm The Reith Lectures Interview 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 World News 1.15 24 Hours 2.00 World News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 On the Shelf 2.45 Backing the Canvas 3.00 News 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 World News 5.15 Network UK 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 News Summary in English 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 World News 8.09 Here's Humph! 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Science in Action 9.00 World News 9.15 People and Politics 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newshour 11.00 World News 11.15 Letter from America 11.30 Multitrack 3 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am From the Weeklies 12.45 Recording of the Week 1.00 News 1.15 Outlook 1.45 Here's Humph! 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 World News 3.09 Network UK 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 3.59 Weather 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Here's Humph! 4.45 News and Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

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Foolhardy hangers-on: two youths hitching a dangerous ride from the bumper of a car in a snow-covered lane near Ide Hill, Kent, yesterday

Heseltine denial on education move

By Douglas Broom
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, yesterday sought to damp down speculation that the government was preparing to take control of education away from local authorities as a way of reducing poll tax bills.

Speaking before meeting local government leaders in London Mr Heseltine dismissed suggestions that removing education from council control was a priority for his review of the community charge and local government structure. "It remains a fall-back option and one of the matters that are still to be considered," he said. "When I first spoke about this I deliberately used the words fall-back or last resort."

His comments appear to put him at odds with the 79 Conservative MPs who had by last night signed a Commons early day motion calling for education to be transferred from local to central government. A group of backbenchers, led by the former local government minister Sir Rhodes Boyson, have argued that the transfer of schools and colleges to the education department would halve poll tax bills.

The Treasury, however, opposes the proposal, which would add at least 2p to basic income tax rates in order to cover the cost of centrally administering the education system in England and Wales.

Mr Heseltine, who held a 90-minute meeting with leaders of the three main local authority associations, also gave his first assessment of the progress of his poll tax review. "We have been making a lot of progress. We have been having long discussions with a lot of people," he said, adding that he had no intention of making any announcement before April.

Mr Heseltine defended the government's record on local government finance saying that some elements had been extraordinarily successful, particularly its funding arrangements for the inner cities.

Responding to criticisms from local authorities that he was conducting the review from behind closed doors and that he had prejudged at least part of the outcome he said: "There is a set agenda but there are no pre-set conclusions."

During his meeting with the leaders of the county, district and metropolitan councils Mr Heseltine said that they could expect outline proposals for change "in April".

Margaret Hodge, Labour leader of Islington council, said she had been alarmed by one remark by Mr Heseltine which had suggested that the reform of local government finance would set the tone for the rest of the review of local government structure. "To suggest that changes in functions will depend on the changes to the poll tax is a very worrying thing to say," she said.

Dermot Roaf, leader of the Liberal Democrat group on the Association of County Councils, said he had suggested that councils should take on more rather than fewer functions. He had proposed giving counties responsibility for the health service.

"We have been too much on the defensive and we should not be afraid to put the case for local government and accountability," he added.

Leading article, page 13

Cheney warning of Soviet civil war

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

RICHARD Cheney, the US defence secretary, gave a warning yesterday of possible civil war in the Soviet Union. He was delivering another black assessment of the state of affairs there and said that America's planned post-Cold War military wind-down might yet have to be curtailled.

Mr Cheney told congressmen that the Soviet economy was collapsing rapidly and the economic outlook was "as bleak as it has been perhaps in the last 50 years since the end of world war two". Economic hardship promised to lead to significant unrest and perhaps even civil war, he said. The gravest threat to the Soviet Union's neighbours was no longer Soviet military expansionism but Moscow's "inability to control events inside the Soviet Union".

Mr Cheney said the Warsaw Pact was dead and the Soviet Union's ability to project military power beyond its borders was declining. He emphasised, however, that future progress on arms control was now in doubt, and that the Soviet Union remained the only country in the world capable of destroying the United States.

Despite the intense economic hardship faced by the Soviet people, he said, the Soviet military was "insisting on retaining an excessive claim to Soviet resources and insisting on continuing to modernise and upgrade their forces".

The defence secretary was unveiling to the House armed services committee a budget package that envisages a big reduction in US military strength over the next six years. But he warned the committee's members that the package's projections were based on optimistic assumptions.

Poll agreement, page 11

Blizzards expected to go on

Continued from page 1

Several roads were closed including the A30 across Exmoor in Somerset. The trans-Pennine A66 route from Penrith to Scotch Corner was closed at Stainmore and conditions there prevented snow ploughs from attempted to cut through 10ft drifts.

British Rail said all principal lines were still open and no stations had been closed but advised people to be prepared for delays, especially during the evening rush hour. Southern Region used de-icer trains throughout Wednesday night and operated them again last night. Empty trains were also running through the night to keep lines clear of snow and ice.

Delays were reported at Gatwick Airport, which was closed between 11am and midday to allow snow ploughs to clear the runways. Sealink said ferries were running normally although passenger numbers were down as people stayed at home.

Local councils used gritters to try to keep roads open and prepared snow ploughs for action. Council staff in most areas are now on permanent standby to grit roads and use snow ploughs to clear serious blockages. The cold weather has already claimed several lives, and there were hundreds of minor road accidents.

Political sketch

Steady on the bridge of HMS Commons

THREATENED by large forces outside our control, it is a human instinct to grasp at the small and familiar things in life. Skippers during a storm at sea used to ask frightened passengers to hold a piece of rigging, or secure a hatch. The task was unimportant but it gave them something to think about and kept them from under the bosun's feet.

MPs are passengers too. The HMS House of Commons may be a rather unusual vessel from whose portholes they nervously peer, but they are equally at sea, and the art of distracting them with useful little tasks while the captain wrestles with the tiller is as important in parliament as it is on the ocean wave.

Yesterday, as sirens wailed, the police cordoned off virtually the whole of Westminster, and smoke rose from craters around 10 Downing Street, MPs cross-questioned the home secretary on "the likely impact of the Broadcasting Act upon the local television coverage of Grampian and the Highlands and Islands."

As I entered, Kenneth Baker was assuring the House that there will be "a suitable proportion of regional programmes." He elaborated: "Clause 16 of the broadcasting act specifically requires this." It was hard to concentrate.

Question 2 was about police manpower. John Marshall (C, Hendon S) was irritated that the metropolitan police "spend too much time on minor motoring offences." One reflected that as he spoke, the police were searching for the driver of a white van involved in a rather serious motoring offence.

But this was not what Labour's spokesman, Barry Sheerman, wanted to discuss. "Bobbies on the beat," he declared, were "the best kind of crime prevention." One reflected that Whitehall has been crawling with bobbies on the beat for as long as anyone can remember. Sheerman's complaint was that a 30 percent increase in police manpower seemed to have made precious little difference to this "visible presence". He seemed to regard this as an argument for doing more of it, rather than less.

MPs agreed. As terrorists upgrade the technology of crime from sophisticated timing devices to missile attacks, our House of Commons argues for getting police officers out of cars and back onto bicycles. Members doubtless reflect their constituents' opinion in this. "Hear, hear!" they shouted, to Mr Sheerman's suggestion.

Roger Sims (C, Chislehurst) asked about the prevention of terrorism act. To MPs' relief and surprise, the home secretary revealed that "at this moment in time we should not lower our defences against terrorism." Mr Baker was in a mood to be bold.

And so it proceeded. The prime minister, having mercifully escaped with his life from a mortar attack, missed the exchange on television licences for pensioners and the interventions on the acreage of land owned by the prisons department; and arrived to hear the tail end of a discussion about the broadcasting standards council. Mr Baker was "concerned about the portrayal of sex and violence on television." Mr Major, one fancied, had other concerns on his mind.

But he hardly showed it. He arrived to a great cheer. He was cool as a cucumber. Only once, on one word — his last word — "contempt," did supressed rage surface, and his voice shook slightly. Neil Kinnock responded in a manner which was both eloquent and impassioned, as did Paddy Ashdown. I haven't the least idea whether terrorists read parliamentary sketches: but if they do, they might reflect that the whole effect of yesterday's attack was considerably to bolster the standing of the prime minister and prompt the opposition parties to broadcast their support for him in firmer terms than ever.

And the House moved on to discuss winter heating allowances.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Curbs anger war reporters

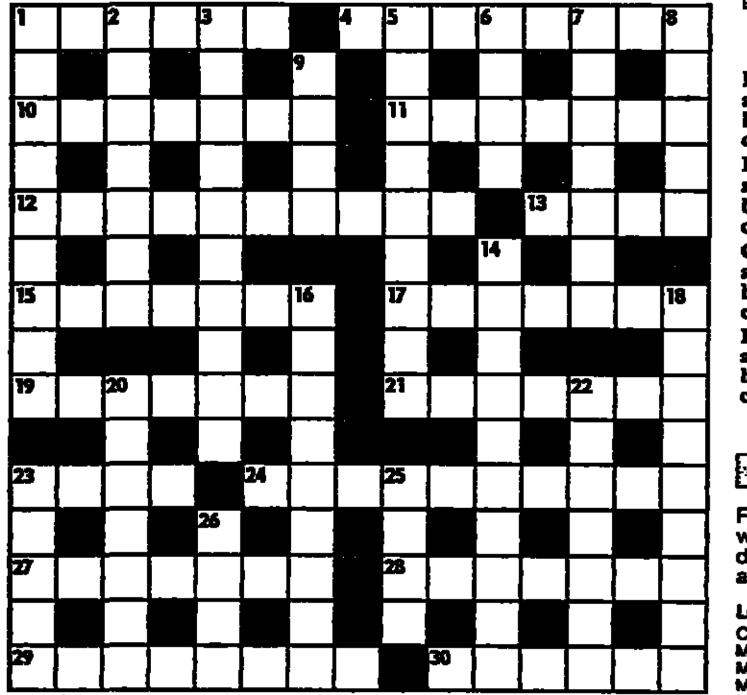
Continued from page 1

the restrictions, the Pentagon has yet to reply to Mr Osborne's latest letter in which he urged "that the government at least tries reasonably security guidelines as a substitute for security reviews" and "that coverage be expanded beyond the press pool arrangements permitting journalists to go whereever they wished" as they had been able to in Vietnam.

By putting correspondents in uniform and attaching them to individual units for long periods, the British army has manged to combine media demands for access with a "bonding system" that has ensured that many reporters will never be critical of men on whose decisions and actions their own lives may soon well depend.

Television crews from ITN and BBC have been arrested for trying to gather first-hand material about the situation in Al Khafji, the border town later the scene of a battle believed to be have been in part the consequence of poor allied military communications.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,524



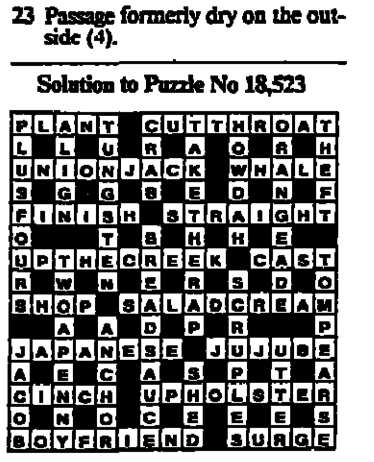
ACROSS

1 A 19 animal, by virtue of being a horse that went the wrong way? (6).
4 Silly idiot, leaving No 10, becomes a writer of love stories (8).
10 Evening out in the club with gin cocktail (7).
11 Small numbers, for example, always form a bunch in the garden (7).
12 Grand token exchanged in this elaborate plot (4-6).
13 Man is one, eight are reported (4).
15 Out but not far from the Strand, we hear (7).
17 Bear a breadbasket (7).
19 Gone for good measure of codex tincture? (7).
21 Square set out according to Mosaic Law, presumably (7).
23 Passage formerly dry on the outside (4).
24 Family works to get something in the pot (5-5).
27 Concerning clues altered or withdrawn (7).
28 Beef in first part of next month (7).
29 Shilling with change — note it could make an American quail! (3-5).
30 Member has intention to become a celebrity (6).

DOWN

1 Nimble third man is a help in the field (9).
2 Fond, as Gloucester said, of the looking-glass? (7).
3 Advance and inherit the earth (4,6).
5 A service for the courses in Worcester or Derby (6-3).
6 Drunk in America, fresh and juicy (4).
7 Said jokingly, a number of things taken into the body (7).
8 Herb the bank blower known to Oberon (5).
9 A seaweed derivative often duplicated (4).
14 It makes deep sounds — thus states blower (10).
16 New text about dog as a sociable creature (9).
18 Darkest, inner section of a plane? (9).
20 One is hailed and spoken of as a fair carrier (7).
22 Not direct in one's answers, see viva ruined? (7).
23 Pound of pulse? (5).
25 Bread and milk — things given to pacify (4).
26 Press in expedition? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,523



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PULKA
a. Savoury pulse porridge
b. An Indian regiment
c. A boat-shaped sledge

PARANG
a. An ancient Persian mile
b. A heavy knife
c. A Malaysian kilt

CHITTAGONG
a. An Indian hen
b. An early American steam engine
c. Indian Army service medal

PABOUCHE
a. A tasty morsel
b. A feathered head-dress
c. An Oriental slipper

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

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National traffic and roundworks

National motorways 737
West Country 738
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East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Concise crossword, page 15

What can be counted
on the fingers of one hand?
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WEATHER

England and Wales will have more heavy snow, especially in eastern and south-eastern England, but spreading to the North-East. Gale force winds will give near blizzard conditions at times and cause drifting. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have snow showers, heaviest and most prolonged in eastern areas with considerable drifting in eastern Scotland. Very cold in most areas. Outlook: staying very cold with more snow in many areas.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	8	46	r	Madrid	9	48	f
Akrotiri	15	59	f	Majorca	16	61	s
Alex'dria	13	55	c	Malaga	17	63	s
Algiers	18	64	f	Malta	16	61	s
Amst'dm	-7	19	sn	Melb'rne	22	72	s
Athens	11	52	c	Mexico C*	17	63	f
Barbads*	28	82	f	Miami*	26	79	c
Barcelna	13	55	f	Milan	-5	23	f
Belgrade	-1	30	f	Montreal*	1	34	c
Berlin	-7	19	s	Moscow	-7	19	sn
Bermuda*	24	75	f	Munich	-8	18	s
Biarritz	8	46	r	Nairobi	29	84	f
Borde'x	-2	28	sn	Naples	10	50	f
Brussels	-8	18	sn	N Delhi	22	72	f
Budapst	-3	27	c	N York*	9	48	c
B Aires*	25	77	c	Nice	0	32	sn
Cairo	18	64	f	Oslo	-7	19	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Paris	-9	16	s
C'blanca	13	55	r	Perth	31	88	s
Chicago*	2	36	c	Prague	-6	21	c
Ch'church	17	63	f	Reykjvik	6	43	r
Cologne	-7	19	c	Rhodes	14	57	s
C'phagn	-2	28	c	Rio de J	30	86	s
Corfu	13	55	f	Rome	5	41	c
Dublin	-1	30	f	Salzburg	-7	19	s
Dubrovnik	8	46	f	S F'risco*	9	48	fg
Faro	13	55	f	Santiago*	31	88	s
Florence	-2	28	sn	S Paulo*	25	77	c
Frankfurt	-6	21	s	Seoul	3	37	r
Funchal	15	59	c	St'kholm	-3	27	s
Geneva	-7	19	c	Strasb'rg	-8	18	s
Gibraltar	14	57	c	Sydney	29	84	s
Helsinki	-11	12	sn	Tangier	12	54	c
Hong K	20	68	s	Tenerife	20	68	s
Innsbrck	-7	19	s	Toronto*	5	41	f
Istanbul	6	43	f	Tunis	17	63	s
Jo'burg*	26	79	f	Valencia	17	63	f
Karachi	22	72	f	Vanc'ver*	5	41	c
L Palmas	19	66	c	Venice	-1	30	f
Lisbon	12	54	f	Vienna	-4	25	sn
Locarno	-5	23	s	Warsaw	-5	23	s
L Angels*	17	63	s	Wash'ton*	13	55	r
Luxembg	-9	16	s	Wel'nton	17	63	c
Luxor	20	68	f	Zurich	-8	18	f

* denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, -3C (27F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -7C (19F). Humidity: 6 pm, 81 per cent. Snow: 24hr to 6 pm, unavailable. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, Nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,011.1 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Scilly Isles, 5C (41F); lowest day max: Hastings, East Sussex, -3C (27F); highest rainfall: Kirkwall, Orkney, 0.16 in; highest sunshine: Anglesey, North Wales, 5.8 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, -1C (30F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -5C (23F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.071 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, Nil.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 1C (34F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -2C (28F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.09 ins. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, Nil.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.1	.02	3	37	snow
Anglesey	5.8	-	3	37	sunny
Aviemore	0.2	-	3	37	snow
Belfast	1.6	.01	4	39	snow
Birmingham	2.1	-	-1	30	snow
Blackpool	3.2	.01	2	36	snow
Bognor Regis	5.4	-	0	32	snow
Brighton	3.9	-	-1	30	sunny
Bristol	4.7	-	1	34	sunny
Buxton	0.7	.02	-2	28	snow
Cardiff	3.1	-	0	32	snow
Clacton	0.3	.02	-1	30	snow
Douglas	0.8	-	2	36	cloudy
Edinburgh	1.4	-	4	39	snow
Eskdalemuir	1.5	.02	1	34	snow
Exmouth	3.8	-	1	34	sunny
Falmouth	-	.04	3	37	sleet
Folkestone	0.1	.03	-1	30	snow
Guernsey	0.4	.05	0	32	snow
Hastings	1.6	.07	-3	27	snow
Hunstanton	1.7	-	-1	30	snow
Ilfracombe	X	-	2	36	sunny
Jersey	2.9	.01	1	34	snow
Kinloss	1.1	-	4	39	snow
Leeds	1.1	.02	1	34	snow
Lerwick	0.1	.01	4	39	hail
Lowestoft	0.1	.01	-3	27	snow
Margate	X	.02	-1	30	snow
Minehead	3.3	-	1	34	snow
Morecambe	3.8	-	2	36	snow
Newquay	-	-	3	37	bright
Nottingham	2.1	.01	-1	30	snow
Penzance	1.6	.01	5	41	sleet
Plymouth	2.2	-	3	37	shower
Poole	4.7	-	3	37	snow
Saunton Snd	5.5	-	4	39	sunny
Scarborough	1.1	.05	1	34	snow
Scilly Isles	2.7	.01	5	41	sunny
Shanklin	2.9	-	0	32	bright
Southsea	4.2	-	1	34	sunny
St. Ives	0.4	-	4	39	cloudy
Stornoway	2.4	-	4	39	sunny

Wednesday's figures are latest available

TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Beds,Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs 708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent 709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincs & Humberside 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
N W England 716
W & S Yorks & Dales 717
N E England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S W Scotland 720
W Central Scotland 721
Edin S Fife/Lothan & Borders 722
E Central Scotland 723
Grampian & E Highlands 724
N W Scotland 725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland 726
N Ireland 727

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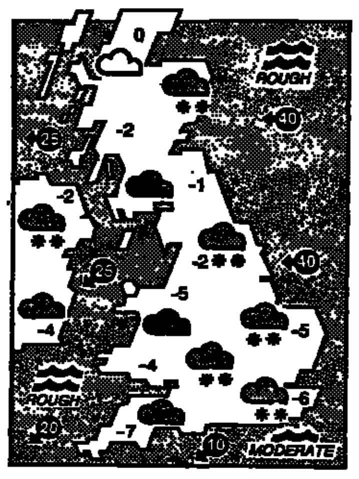
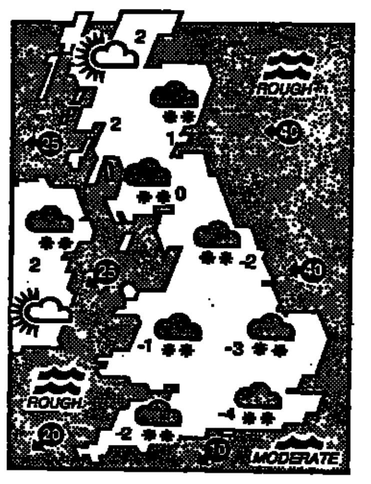




YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	-1	30	sn	Guernsey	-5	23	sn
B'rmgham	-5	23	sn	Inverness	1	34	f
Blackpool	-2	28	c	Jersey	-5	23	c
Bristol	-4	25	f	London	-4	25	sn
Cardiff	-4	25	s	M'nchster	-3	27	sn
Edinburgh	1	34	sn	Newcastle	0	32	h
Glasgow	0	32	c	R'nldsway	0	32	f

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 5.02 pm to 7.27 am
Bristol 5.12 pm to 7.36 am
Edinburgh 5.00 pm to 7.52 am
Manchester 5.05 pm to 7.41 am
Penzance 5.27 pm to 7.45 am

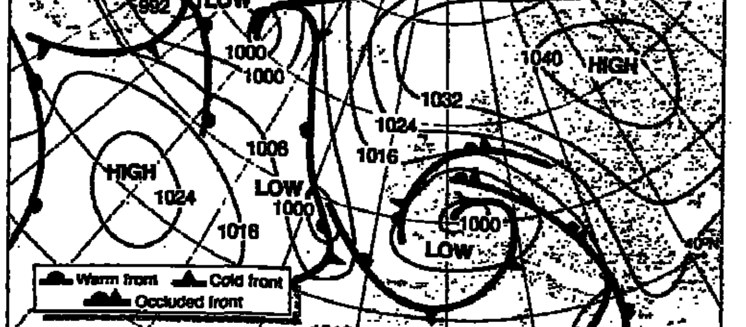
Sun rises: 7.28 am
Sun sets: 5.02 pm
Moon rises: 3.30 am
Moon sets: 10.47 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	8.02	5.8	8.33	5.7	Liverpool	5.26	7.0	6.08	6.8
Aberdeen	7.59	3.1	8.44	3.1	Lowestoft	3.50	2.0	4.41	1.9
Avonmouth	12.32	9.6	1.04	9.3	Margate	6.18	3.8	6.57	3.7
Belfast	5.47	2.8	6.21	2.9	Milford Haven	12.04	5.1	12.38	4.9
Cardiff	12.17	9.1	12.49	8.6	Newquay	11.38	5.0		
Devonport	11.37	4.3			Oban			12.27	2.8
Dover	5.18	5.1	6.05	4.7	Penzance	10.55	4.3	11.41	4.3
Falmouth	11.07	4.1	11.53	4.1	Portland	11.51	1.2		
Glasgow	6.47	3.9	6.53	3.7	Portsmouth	6.11	3.7	6.49	3.6
Harwich	5.48	3.1	6.21	2.9	Shoreham	5.12	4.7	6.07	4.4
Holyhead	4.49	4.2	5.37	4.1	Southampton	5.18	3.8	6.05	3.4
Hull	12.07	5.8	12.43	5.6	Swansea	12.11	7.2	12.42	7.0
Ilfracombe			12.17	6.4	Tees	10.23	4.0	11.06	4.0
King's Lynn	12.10	4.7	12.54	4.5	W'ton-on-Nze	5.47	3.3	6.22	3.1
Leith	9.12	4.3	9.59	4.2					

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-27
● FOCUS: KENT 28,29
● LAW 33
● SPORT 34-38

BUSINESS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8 1991

Sugar beet factories to close

BRITISH Sugar, which was bought by Associated British Foods from Berisford International in January for £880 million, is closing two of its 12 factories at a cost of up to 230 jobs.

The company said it would try to relocate some employees from the beet processing plants at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, and Brigg, Humberside, and that it will spend more than £170 million over the next five years on boosting factory efficiency.

Publisher sold

Macmillan, the American book publishing subsidiary of Maxwell Communication Corporation, has acquired Dillon Press, a children's book publisher, for an undisclosed price. Dillon's operations will move from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Macmillan's offices in New York and New Jersey.

Irish merger

TWO of Dublin's oldest financial firms are merging to form Ireland's largest private client broker. Bloxham Maguire is joining McCaw Fleming & Judd, to form Bloxham Stockbrokers. The combined firm, which will remain a partnership, will have more than 15,000 clients.

Unitech slides

Unitech, the electronic components maker, suffered a 29 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £8.8 million in the six months to November, but has held its interim dividend at 4.2p per share. The group expects to raise £14.6 million before tax from selling shares in Nemic Lambda, its quoted Japanese subsidiary which will also issue £10.7 million of new shares, cutting Unitech's stake to 52 per cent.

Tempus, page 23

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9945 (–0.0065)
German mark
2.8990 (–0.0055)
Exchange index
94.4 (–0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1756.2 (+37.4)
FT-SE 100
2243.7 (+48.9)
New York Dow Jones
2844.55 (+13.61)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
24104.43 (+152.39)
Closing Prices ... Page 26

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 13½-13 7/16%
3-month eligible bills: 12 31/32-12⅞%
US: Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 6¼%*
3-month Treasury Bills 5.92-5.91%*
30-year bonds 108⅝-108 7/16*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.9945	£: $1.9965*
£: DM2.8990	$: DM1.4512*
£: SwFr2.4652	$: SwFr1.2380*
£: FFr9.8877	$: FFr4.9360*
£: Yen256.14	$: Yen127.90*
£: Index:94 4	$: Index:59.4
ECU £0.705673	SDR £0.728526
£: ECU1.417086	£: SDR1.370753

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $363.50 pm-$363.90
close $365.25-365.75 (£183.50-184.00)
New York:
Comex $369.75-370.25*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) ...... $20.10 bbl ($20.15)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.625	2.475
Austria Sch	21.40	20.00
Belgium Fr	62.50	58.50
Canada $	2.42	2.27
Denmark Kr	11.67	10.97
Finland Mkk	7.42	6.97
France Fr	10.27	9.62
Germany Dm	3.03	2.83
Greece Dr	330	310
Hong Kong $	16.00	15.20
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.07
Italy Lira	2280	2140
Japan Yen	271	255
Netherlands Gld	3.41	3.20
Norway Kr	11.85	11.15
Portugal Esc	267	251
South Africa Rd	5.55	4.95
Spain Pta	188.50	176.50
Sweden Kr	11.38	10.70
Switzerland Fr	2.575	2.405
Turkey Lira	6400	5800
USA $	2.085	1.965
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	27.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 129.9 (December)

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Top companies in appeal to save Gatt talks

By Martin Barrow

LEADERS of more than 60 of the world's largest companies today make an unprecedented appeal to governments to save the stalled Uruguay round of international trade talks from total collapse.

The appeal, made through the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), said governments should restart negotiations "as a matter of extreme urgency" and bring them promptly to a successful conclusion.

Prospects of a return to normal economic growth when war in the Gulf ends will otherwise be "gravely damaged", they say. Signatories include the chairmen and chief executives of leading industrial concerns in 27 countries, including Britain, Germany, America, Japan, France, Italy, Scandinavia, Australia and Canada.

British signatories are Sir Denys Henderson, chairman of ICI; Sir Peter Holmes, chairman of Shell Transport and Trading; Patrick Gillam, managing director of BP; and Sir George Turnbull, chairman of Inchcape.

Italy is represented by Giovanni Agnelli and Carlo De Benedetti, heads of Fiat and Olivetti respectively. German signatories include Karlheinz Kaske of Siemens, Werner Dieter of Mannesmann, Edzard Reuter of Daimler-Benz, and Rolf Sammet of Hoechst. Other European companies include Volkswagen, Philips, Carlsberg, Dresdner Bank, Lyonnaise des Eaux and Pirelli. IBM's John Akers, Frank Popoff of Dow Chemical, James Robinson of American Express and John Reed of Citicorp sign for the United States. Akio Morita of Sony, Joichi Aoi of Toshiba and Yotari Kobayashi of Fuji Xerox are among Japanese signatories.

The appeal was launched at the initiative of Joseph Connor, chairman of Price Waterhouse and president of the ICC, Dr Peter Wallenberg, a past president, and Hari Shankar Singhania, a vice-president of ICC. It argues that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), under which the Uruguay round of talks was held, has powered "the greatest expansion of global living standards in the history of mankind".

Definitive failure of the round would invite growing protectionism, inward-looking regional trading blocs and inefficient bilateral arrangements. This would ill substantially increase uncertainties and risks facing business and threaten investment, growth and employment.

The businessmen's call for the Uruguay round to produce a balanced package of reforms that would enable world business to respond to new challenges of a market-oriented world economy and would benefit developed and developing nations alike.

They emphasise that there must be a breakthrough in agriculture to salvage the talks, which stumbled over farm reform at the meeting of world trade ministers in December, pitting the European Community against America and members of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters.

America, which objects to aspects of Europe's common agricultural policy, has already moved to curb imports of meat from the Community. America rejected European offers to reduce subsidies by 30 per cent over ten years, jeopardising efforts to liberalise trade in services, textiles, patents and semiconductors.

The collapse of the talks prompted deep concern, among those, including the prime minister, who fear that a retreat from freer world trade will brake growth and fuel recession worldwide. "The impasse over agricultural trade caused the Brussels meeting to founder," said the ICC. "It is clear to us that the round will not be resumed unless agreement can be reached on a credible framework for negotiations in this area."

The ICC also wants new multilateral rules to liberalise international trade in services, to strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights, and to discipline investment measures that distort international trade.

ICC members conclude: "We stress that time is running out. In the next two or three weeks important work will have to be done to enable a successful conclusion."

Comment, page 23

On the move: Nigel Walmsley is leaving Capital Radio for Carlton

Thames TV in bid talks

By Martin Waller

THAMES TV, the weekday London area ITV contractor, has announced surprise bid talks that could value the company at between £125 million and £150 million or 250p to 300p a share.

The news came on the day Nigel Walmsley revealed he was leaving Capital Radio, where he is managing director, for Carlton Communications, Michael Green's film and television services group, to head a team bidding for a large independent TV franchise.

Thames said discussions were "at an advanced stage which may lead to an imminent offer". The announcement was apparently forced on the company by a rising share price, up 35p to 308p before the news. The shares ended 18p higher at 291p.

The news came as a surprise because Thames is expected to face fierce competition in the forthcoming franchise round. Any bidder could be a European group keen to move into British TV ahead of this.

The putative bidder would need the agreement of BET and Thorn EMI, which together own 56 per cent of Thames. There were suggestions that Thorn, tired of sitting on a potential loss on its 28 per cent, might itself bid. Thorn would not comment.

Carlton had been known to be considering a bid for an independent franchise, but the appointment of Mr Walmsley, who steered Capital successfully through the renewal of its own radio franchise in 1983, came as a surprise. Carlton shares jumped 8p to 377p.

Carlton is known to have identified one franchise area in particular, and its choice is almost certainly in the South. The group already owns 20 per cent of Central TV and is therefore unlikely to compete against the incumbent.

The favourites are the franchises occupied by LWT, the London weekend broadcaster, Thames itself and TVS Entertainment, the contractor for the south of England. "I believe they are likely to go for the London weekday franchise," said Bronwen Maddox, TV analyst at Kleinwort Benson.

Mr Walmsley joins formally in three months as chief executive of a specially formed subsidiary, Carlton Television.

He is thought to be going on a two-year contract at substantially more than the £161,000 he earned in Capital's last financial year.

Chart, page 27

Shares surge 2.2% on rate hopes

By Our City Staff

CITY investors embarked on another massive spending spree in the stock market, convinced that a cut in bank base rates is on the way.

The FT-SE 100 index surged 48.9 points, or 2.2 per cent, to 2,243.7 — its highest level since August 9 — as almost 600 million shares changed hands in active trading.

Government securities also enjoyed an active session, encouraged by the scent of cheaper money. The government broker was able to sell remaining supplies of the new tap Treasury 9 per cent 2,000 with prices at the longer end sporting gains of up to £½.

Dealers said prices had been marked sharply higher first thing on the back of a near 43-point rise overnight on Wall Street. But it took time for the full weight of buying to materialise, with many fund managers struggling into work late against the artic conditions.

With only a brief hiccup on news of the mortar bomb attack on Downing Street, share prices grew in confidence throughout the day before closing near the top, helped by another encouraging start in New York.

Leading brokers claim that attempts by the Bank of England to dampen speculation about an early cut in bank base rates have been futile.

Money markets also continued to anticipate an early reduction in base rates. The three-month interbank rate, the closest parallel in money markets to clearing bank base rates, was around the 13.5 per cent mark, already discounting a half-point fall in base rates.

Gold remained stagnant thorughout most of the day. The afternoon fix was $363.90 an ounce, up 40 cents on the previous close. Silver bullion was fixed at 380 cents an ounce at midday, its lowest fixing for 17 years.

Foreign exchanges were quieter yesterday, with the pound closing at $1.9980, down 0.3 cents, and at DM2.8971, down 0.59 pfennigs. The trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 94.4.

Markets, page 27

Etam rejects Oceana's bid

ETAM, the fashion retailer, has rejected an approach by Oceana Investment Corporation to acquire 50 per cent of the group. Etam said it did not regard the proposals as serious. UBS Phillips & Drew, the group's adviser, does not believe them to be in the best interests of shareholders (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Etam is believed to have received two draft proposals from Oceana, a quoted investment company run by the South African Lewis family. One is believed to have involved a rights issue by Etam, which would have been underwritten by Oceana. The proposals are believed to have valued Etam's shares at 140p, which would value the group at £91 million. Oceana has a 4.4 per cent stake in Etam.

Etam yesterday dismissed the approach after a discussion with the Takeover Panel which had noted the recent rise in Etam's shares. The shares closed up 10p at 117p, valuing Etam at £76.4 million. The shares have risen steadily since their low last September of 56p.

Oceana has interests in a chain of Dutch restaurants and made profits of £607,000 (£411,000) for the year to end-March 1990. It is unclear how Oceana's proposal to leave 50 per cent of Etam in the hands of its existing shareholders would circumvent Takeover Panel rules.

Sainsbury to close two Homebases

By Gillian Bowditch

J SAINSBURY is to close two of its Homebase do-it-yourself stores tomorrow. The closures at Great Yarmouth and Blackpool will affect 59 jobs. While efforts will be made to relocate staff, Sainsbury says some redundancies are inevitable.

Sainsbury says the decision is based on a continued poor level of trade at the stores and limited prospects for improvement. But the group says the closures do not reflect overall company performance, which Sainsbury says is good in difficult trading conditions.

A Sainsbury spokesman said the two stores which are to close were trading at below half the level of a low trading store: Verdict, the market research group, estimates that the average turnover of a typical Homebase is about £30 million a year. Most of the stores are in excess of 40,000 square feet.

Sainsbury remains committed to developing the Homebase chain, which includes 63 stores, and the group says its progress will be governed in part by the vigour of the housing market, which has recently been depressed by high interest rates. Six Homebase stores are planned to open in 1991-2, with a number of sites identified for the future.

Homebase made operating profits of £10.9 million on sales of £174.4 million for the year to March 1990. The DIY market has been one of the worst affected by the recession because of its dependence on the housing market. DIY retailers are now looking to Easter, the traditionally busy time for DIY.

Kuwaiti banks to repay $1bn debts

By Neil Bennett, banking correspondent

KUWAITI banks are preparing to repay more than $1 billion in global interbank debts, frozen since the Iraqi invasion last August. This will allow the banks to begin trading again in readiness for the country's liberation.

Meanwhile the United Bank of Kuwait, a British bank owned by a group of Kuwaiti institutions, has announced a 34 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £5.5 million for last year.

Seven Kuwaiti banks are liquidating their assets, including loan books and money market securities, to repay the interbank lines. The operation should be completed in the next few days.

The settlment will unfreeze the banks and re-establish their position in the international capital markets. The operation is being overseen by the Central Bank of Kuwait, now based in the City. It has guaranteed the debts of all the commercial banks.

The banks' assets outside Kuwait were frozen in August by central banks to prevent them falling into Iraqi hands. Since then the National Bank of Kuwait, the country's largest and most international bank, has resumed trading. The United Bank suffered a net extraordinary loss of £13.5 million from the invasion. It wrote off loans of £11.3 million in Kuwait and £2.3 million in Iraq before a tax credit.

The bank was also forced to write off a £4.44 million loss on a £150 million investment portfolio which was sold in the hours after the invasion on August 2.

City watchdog dismisses a fifth of its staff

Fimbra faces make or break day

By Jon Ashworth

FIMBRA, the City regulator that has the task of keeping Britain's independent financial advisers in check, is itself running into financial difficulties. It made at least 40 employees redundant yesterday, in the face of annual costs of £4.8 million.

Today is make or break day for Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, and a crucial meeting will be held at its headquarters.

Paul Dickison, the deputy chief executive, was one of the redundancies — out of 190 staff. He has been given three months' notice. Michael Winterton, the legal director, was made redundant on January 16, and has not been replaced. Three of Fimbra's five compliance managers — a busy and overworked team — were told to leave last Friday.

Today's meeting will be held at Fimbra's Marsh Wall headquarters, in the shadow of Canary Wharf. Faced with huge running costs and a shrinking membership, and after a succession of embarrassing City collapses, the watchdog is expected to make a statement about its future.

Godfrey Jillings, the recently appointed chief executive, is believed to have been in touch with both the Securities and Investments Board and the trade department, requesting urgent financial assistance. Without it, he advised, Fimbra faces insolvency.

When he took up his position in November, Mr Jillings promised a general review of the entire Fimbra operation. Now, more than 40 people have lost their jobs, and the financial advisers who have to pay up to £2,000 in membership fees each year are wondering, not without reason, what on earth is going on.

Fimbra was keeping a brave face: any job cuts, it insisted, would "in no way affect the very high degree of investor protection which is afforded by financial regulation".

Those who follow Fimbra's progress from outside do not entirely agree. Marjorie Mowlam, the shadow trade and industry spokeswoman, said the turn of events made a mockery of financial self-regulation, the system of investor protection brought in by the Financial Services Act 1986.

"This calls into question the whole structure of the present self-regulatory system," she said. "One wonders what action the government is going to take in the light of this obvious failure."

Each new City controversy, from the collapse of Dunsdale Securities to the failure of the Levitt Group, has unleashed a fresh barrage of criticism on Fimbra. Today, Fimbra has the opportunity to either start afresh or admit that it is not up to the task.

CNT

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COMMISSION FOR THE NEW TOWNS,
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KLM losses will continue 'to 1994' as 3,000 staff go

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is to reduce its staff by 3,000, from a current 25,000, it was revealed yesterday as the company plunged into a third quarter net loss of Fl213.9 million (£65.5 million).

The loss, which surpassed *even the most pessimistic* forecasts, compares with a net profit of Fl58 million in the same period last year.

The company blamed the worldwide economic downturn and the Gulf war for its problems.

The Gulf war affected KLM's load factor, the average amount of seats sold compared with those available for sale. This fell to a low of 65.8 per cent in January, down from 69.7 per cent in December.

The load factor is a crucial element in airline profits, which depend disproportionally on marginal seats sold as well as the position in the aircraft because first class and business class seats make much higher profits.

A company spokesman said that KLM does not expect to return to profit until the *financial year ending in March* 1994.

Last October KLM indicated the scale of its problems when it issued a warning that it will make a loss in the current year.

The company has decided to reduce capacity as a result of its problems. In a statement, the company said: "Based on the current decline in traffic and forecasts that complete recovery is improbable in the short term, it has been decided to restrict the capacity to be deployed in the years 1991-2 and 1992-3.

"Capacity will be reduced by one Boeing 747 and one Airbus A310, and leased aircraft on order will be postponed. This will also result in a reduction in the workforce."

Last October the company said that 500 jobs in non-core departments would be lost, but yesterday another 600 redundancies were added, including those of service personnel.

Another 2,000 jobs will be taken out of the company's payroll through divestments of peripheral activities.

The divestments will affect KLM's training department, ground vehicle maintenance, fire brigades, food and catering division and some heavy engineering activities among others.

Shares in KLM were suspended in Amsterdam for two hours yesterday morning and later closed at Fl20.50, up Fl0.20.

KLM's financial problems reflect those of many other European airlines, which have been hit hard by the recession.

The situation has grown worse since the outbreak of the Gulf war, as frightened passengers, in particular businessmen, have scaled down their air travel because they fear terrorist attacks.

Lufthansa, the German state airline, fell to a break-even position last year, after 1989 net earnings of DM110 million.

Interest helps lift Seacon

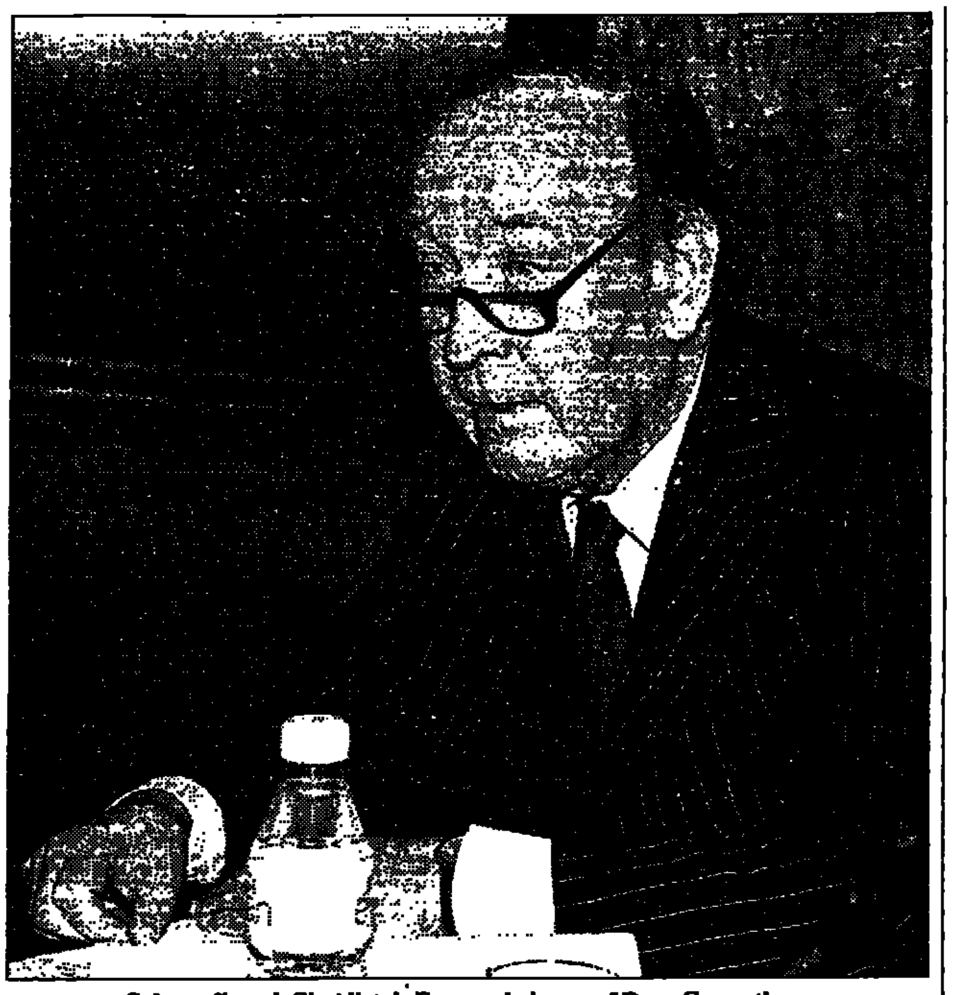
By PHILIP PANGALOS

SEACON Holdings, the shipping and transport group, lifted pre-tax profits from £1.53 million to £1.58 million in the year to end-September.

Interest receipts rose from £176,135 to £631,562, helped by the proceeds from the sale of Milford Docks. Interest payments were trimmed from £135,021 to £84,372, while turnover fell from £17.9 million to £17.3 million.

Earnings per share fell to 13.91p (17.46p), largely due to a higher number of shares in issue, while fully diluted earnings slipped to 11.33p (12.02p). The final dividend is raised to 2.3p (1.95p), making an improved total of 3.5p (3.15p) for the year. An extraordinary gain of £2.21 million related to the sale of Milford Docks.

The company said performance improved in the second half because of reduced operating costs and a stronger and more stable rate of exchange between the pound and mark. The shares rose 5p to 95p.



Sale confirmed: Sir Alistair Frame, chairman of Davy Corportion

Davy sells German interests

DAVY Corporation, the engineer chaired by Sir Alistair Frame, has confirmed the sale of its entire German operation, consisting of two businesses, Zimmer and Davy Bamag, for DM227.5 million to Metallgesellschaft, the German industrial group.

Davy will, on completion, be paid DM204.75 million and the balance this September, subject to any warranty claims. Zimmer makes plant to manufacture artificial fibres while Bamag produces water treatment equipment.

Further disposals are expected from the group in due course.

Tempus, page 23

William Cook drops Telfos bid after 'change in status'

By MARTIN BARROW

WILLIAM Cook has lapsed its ill-fated takeover bid for Telfos Holdings, citing a material change in the railway engineering group's financial status and claiming it has fallen into "a disastrous position".

However, Andrew Cook, chairman of William Cook, hinted that he may be prepared to return with a revised offer for Telfos. "I would welcome an opportunity to resurrect our discussions and to attempt to arrive at a realistic evaluation of Telfos' current and future position."

Shares in Telfos traded at 68p following the announcement. On Wednesday they collapsed 41p to 57p after Price Waterhouse, its auditor, advised the company to make further provisions of £13 million against non-core investments, raising the total level of provisions for 1990 to £22 million. William Cook's cash and shares offer was originally worth 114p a share, valuing Telfos at £36 million.

In addition to the provisions, William Cook and its adviser, Hambros Bank, draw attention to other disclosures which, they believe, have materially changed Telfos' financial and trading position. These include a revised estimate of net assets attributable to shareholders of just £9.2 million, or 29p a share, even though Telfos raised more than £18 million from equity issues last year; estimated pre-tax losses of £300,000 for 1990, compared with expectations of profits of £5 million, and concern over Ganz-Hunslet in Hungary, of which it owns 51 per cent.

Comment, page 23

Lewis's gives pledge on goods

ALLAN Griffiths, the receiver at the Lewis's department store group said all customers who had paid deposits for goods would receive them on payment of the balance.

He has had more than 50 enquiries regarding the sale of the chain of 11 stores and is in talks with two groups interested in acquiring the bulk of the stores.

Mr Griffiths said he was obliged to call a creditors' meeting within the next three months.

Talks with backers confirmed by Allders

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ALLDERS, the department store and duty free group, has confirmed it is in talks with its financial backers.

Harvey Lipsith, the chief executive, said the talks were intended to address long-term issues in 1994 and beyond since a short-term flotation was not feasible given current market conditions.

Mr Lipsith denied Allders was in financial difficulty and said the group had the full support of all its financial backers. He added that the group's suppliers had been paid and are continuing to be paid promptly in accordance with agreed terms.

Mr Lipsith said: "Trading conditions are tough, but we have been predicting and planning for these for a considerable time. The Gulf war is not having a material impact on our total business. While UK airport business is down, this represents only a small proportion of our worldwide interests."

Paul Brooks, a non-executive director, said the group owed its bankers £100 million and Hanson £40 million. He said it was too early to say what the outcome of the talks with the financial backers would be.

Higher bills for credit cardholders

SHOPS, restaurants and garages will be able to surcharge credit card customers from next month under rules laid before Parliament.

The draft regulations come after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report last year that said credit card companies should not be able to dictate that outlets must not discriminate against cardholders. It costs more to process a card purchase and retailers felt they should be allowed to reflect the difference in their prices.

The measures are designed to ensure that consumers will not be misled when traders no longer have to charge cash customers the same price as those paying by credit card. Retailers will have to make clear to customers any difference between the marked price and the price for any other method of payment.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Gaynor Group shares suspended at 7½p

SHARES in Gaynor Group, the troubled Unlisted Securities Market manufacturer of plastic bags and packaging film, have been suspended at 7½p at the company's request, "pending clarification of the company's financial position". Peter Giles, managing director, said: "We are in discussions with our bankers."

In December, the shares collapsed from 23p to 3p after pre-tax losses deepened to £1.54 million for the year to end-August. The company blamed the losses on a jump in raw material costs and the loss of two big supermarket customers. The switch by the two customers was largely responsible for a 23 per cent drop in turnover to £6.41 million. The Gulf war resulted in a 50 per cent jump in raw material costs. The company has not exceeded its £3¼ million debt facility, but was still trading at a loss.

Revenue slips at Hotspur

HOTSPUR Investments, the investment trust formerly known as the British Kidney Patient Association Investment Trust, suffered a decline in pre-tax revenue from £115,672 to £110,121 in the year to end-December. The net asset value fell to 288.2p (327.0p). Earnings per share slipped from 13.99p to 13.36p. The final dividend has been trimmed to 6p (8.5p), making a total of 16p (12.5p) for the year.

Intercare in black again

INTERCARE Group, the fast-growing USM-quoted optical, dental and medical supplies group, is back in the black with pre-tax profits of £504,000 in the year to end-October, compared with a £108,000 loss last time. Turnover, boosted by acquisition, surged from £1.18 million to £6.78 million. Intercare is paying a maiden dividend of 1.25p. Earnings per share stood at 4.1p against a 1.9p loss.

North Sea oil fine

THE Norwegian state prosecutor has fined Norway's oil firm Saga Petroleum NKr3 million (£264,038) for violating the country's petroleum law when handling a North Sea oil well that went out of control.

The crippled exploration well had an underwater blow-out in January 1989. It was first brought under control the following December and sealed in March 1990. Saga, Norway's only fully private oil firm, denied the charges, saying its view was backed by international expertise. Saga said it would assess the state prosecutor's letter and decide within the next two weeks whether to pay the fine. If it decides not to, the prosecutor will take the company to court.

Fall in net asset value

THE net asset value at Children's Medical Charity Investment Trust stood at 79.6p per ordinary share at end-December (98.8p). The trust's pre-tax surplus fell from £71,402 to £50,025 in the year to end-December, while gross revenue declined to £71,386 (£87,280). Revenue from investments fell to £56,792 (£59,806) and interest receipts slipped to £14,594 (£23,100).

NAV down at Primadona

THE net asset value at Primadona, the investment trust, fell to 153.38p per share at end-December, compared with 181.94p six months earlier and 216.7p the previous year. Pre-tax profits increased from £205,048 to £332,673 in the six months to end-December. Earnings per share climbed from 3.67p to 4.94p. The interim dividend is 2p, against 1.5p last time.

Ericsson share slump

SHARES in Telefonaktiebolaget L M Ericsson, the Swedish telecommunications group, plunged SKr22 (£2) yesterday, after the company said it could be difficult to surpass 1990's income level in 1991. The B share closed at Kr177, down from Kr199 on Wednesday and a high of Kr258 last year.

Analysts said that the 1991 outlook tarnished the view of Ericsson as recession-proof and some firms would have to downgrade profit forecasts. "The market range for 1991 has been between Kr5.2 and Kr6.1 billion in profits. Now it might land at below Kr5 billion," one analyst said. Ericsson free B shares worth Kr166 million changed hands, amounting to 36 per cent of the bourse's total turnover yesterday.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 94.4 (day's range 94.3-94.4).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 7	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.9930-1.9970	1.9940-1.9950	1.13-1.12pr	3.26-3.24pr
Montrl	2.3049-2.3129	2.3096-2.3129	0.56-0.50pr	1.14-1.04pr
Amsterdm	3.2621-3.2692	3.2621-3.2659	1¼-1pr	3¾-3½pr
Brussels	59.45-59.84	59.70-59.84	19-16pr	53-47pr
Copnhgn	11.1010-11.1677	11.1610-11.1677	3¼-2¾pr	8¾-7¾pr
Dublin	1.0895-1.0945	1.0915-1.0925	26-20pr	70-65pr
Frankft	2.8945-2.9016	2.8972-2.9008	1¼-1pr	3¼-2¾pr
Lisbon	254.89-257.88	256.14-257.88	13-35ds	93-145ds
Madrid	181.84-182.63	181.84-182.07	3-11ds	44-55ds
Milan	2176.40-2180.94	2176.40-2179.60	3-1pr	5-3pr
Oslo	11.3353-11.3638	11.3450-11.3620	3-2½pr	6¾-5¾pr
Paris	9.8862-9.8952	9.8802-9.8952	3¼-2¾pr	7¾-7½pr
Stckhlm	10.8782-10.9092	10.8970-10.9013	1¼-¾pr	1½-1pr
Tokyo	255.96-256.61	255.96-256.31	1¼-1pr	3¾-3½pr
Vienna	20.3445-20.4338	20.4236-20.4338	7¾-6¾pr	20¼-18pr
Zurich	2.4594-2.4669	2.4635-2.4669	1½-1pr	3¼-3pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	n/a
Australia dollar	2.5468-2.5512
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro *	n/a
Cyprus pound	0.8375-0.8475
Finland markka	7.0325-7.0925
Greece drachma	308.65-311.85
Hong Kong dollar	15.5502-15.5801
India rupee	37.03-37.43
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.3608-5.3656
Mexico peso	5890-5990
New Zealand dollar	3.3040-3.3113
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.4147-3.4185
S Africa rand (fin)	6.1009-6.1968
S Africa rand (com)	5.0228-5.0314
U A E dirham	n/a

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.8275-1.8290
Singapore	1.7125-1.7135
Malaysia	2.6885-2.6895
Australia	1.2771-1.2787
Canada	1.1588-1.1598
Sweden	5.4650-5.4700
Norway	5.6900-5.6950
Denmark	5.5975-5.6025
W Germany	1.4530-1.4540
Switzerland	1.2355-1.2365
Netherlands	1.6360-1.6370
France	4.9550-4.9600
Japan	128.40-128.50
Italy	1091.5-1092.5
Belgium (Com)	29.94-29.99
Hong Kong	7.7985-7.7995
Portugal	128.00-128.20
Spain	91.40-91.60
Austria	10.22-10.24

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Dec 31, 1990 Agreed rates Jan 26, 1991 to Feb 25, 1991 Scheme I: 14.54%. Schemes II & III: 15.09%. Reference rate Dec 1, 1990 to Dec 31, 1990 Scheme IV & V: 13.843%.

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 14 Finance Hse 14

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 14 Low 13½ Week fixed: 14

Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 13¼ ; 3 mth 12⅞ . Sell: 2 mth 13 ; 3 mth: 12⅝ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	13 11/16-13⅝	13⅜-13¼	12 31/32-12⅞	12 9/16-15/32	
Trade Bills (Dis):	14 3/16	13⅝	13 15/32	12 13/16	
Interbank:	14-13 15/16	13¾-13 11/16	13⅝-13 7/16	12 31/32-12⅞	12⅝-12½
(Overnight: open 14¼, close 14¼.					
Local Authority Deps:	14	n/a	13½	12⅞	13⅜
Sterling CDs:	14-13¾	13 11/16-13 9/16	13½-13⅜	13-12⅞	12 7/16-5/16
Dollar CDs:	6.45-6.40	6.65-6.60	6.55-6.50	6.55-6.50	6.75-6.70
Building Society CDs:	14-13¾	13⅝-13½	13⅝-13½	12 9/16-7/16	12 9/16-7/16

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6 3/16-5 15/16	6⅜-6 5/16	6 9/16-6⅜	6 9/16-6⅜	6⅜-6½
Deutschemark:	8⅝-8½	8⅞-8¾	9 1/16-8 15/16	9 1/16-8 15/16	8½-7½
French Franc:	9¾-9½	9 15/16-13/16	10 1/16-9⅞	10⅛-10	10-9
Swiss Franc:	8-7¾	7 15/16-13/16	7 15/16-13/16	7⅞-7¾	8-7
Yen:	8-7½	8¼-8 1/16	8 3/16-8 1/16	7⅞-7¾	7¼-6¾

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $363.50-363.90 Close: $365.25-365.75 High: $365.25-365.75 Low: $363.20-363.70 Krugerrand: $364.75-365.75 (£182.50-183.00)

Sovereigns: Old $93.00-94.00 (£43.00-44.00) New $93.00-94.00 (£46.00-47.00)

Platinum: $382.75 (£192.00) Silver: $3.78 (£1.895) Palladium: $83.50 (£41.90)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 31311	Mar 91	2245.0	2260.0	2247.0	2257.0	7906
	Jun 91	2290.0	2297.0	2296.0	2327.0	227
	Sep 91				2358.0	0
Three Month Sterling	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

هذا من الأرشيف

Back from the brink at GATT

COMMENT

As Adam Smith wrote 200 years ago: "People of the same trade seldom meet together, even for merriment and diversion, but the conversation ends in a conspiracy against the public." What then are we to make of the appeal for an immediate resumption of the Uruguay trade talks released yesterday by the chairmen of 60 of the world's biggest companies, ranging from genuine multinationals like IBM, ICI and Unilever, to oligopolistic national champions like Fiat, Olivetti and the Daelim Industrial Company of Korea?

An outright collapse of the Uruguay Round would probably be the greatest disaster to hit the world economy in our lifetimes, as the unprecedented appeal published yesterday by the International Chamber of Commerce implies. Not only would the loss of the Uruguay Round defer indefinitely the great benefits of freer trade in agriculture, services and intellectual property. Worse still, protectionists throughout the world would declare an open season for attacks against the liberal trading system in manufactured goods, which has been responsible for so much of the world's prosperity since 1945.

But does this imply that the world economy would be well served by an immediate rush back to the negotiating table, as the international captains of industry demand? Not necessarily. The trade talks in Brussels last December broke down for two very good reasons: the unwillingness of European governments to contemplate a head-on attack against their large-scale farmers; and the vulnerability of American politicians to even narrower special interest lobbies, such as the country's small shipping industry. In the final analysis, it would of course be far preferable to fudge the contentious issues, above all agriculture, than to lose the Uruguay Round in its entirety. But with the European farm ministers obviously on the run after the Americans finally called their protectionist bluff last December, it is arguably too early to let up the pressure.

For the first time in decades, the near-collapse of the Uruguay Round has begun to rally public opinion around the world against the costs and absurdities of agricultural protectionism. In the two months of anxiety since the talks broke down, more progress has been made by all sides towards rational positions than in many previous years of non-stop talking. The first results were seen in last month's suggestions for far-reaching reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy, with the emphasis shifting from production subsidiies to income maintenance for small farmers. But it is still too early to declare a victory for common sense. President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl will overrule their agricultural interests only if every avenue for prevarication is finally blocked. President Bush should continue to insist that serious concessions in agricultural be on the table, as a precondition for new Uruguay talks. In the end he will get his way.

Great escapes

Making an opportunist bid for a company that has run into trouble must look a wonderful way of buying assets the bidder wants at prices it can afford. As with the massive price reduction in the January sales or the irresistible second hand car bargain, however, things can go wrong. With businesses, asset values and optimistic accounting all in recession, that is happening with some frequency.

Telfos, whose ghastly revelations about its non-core investments quickly persuaded William Cook to abandon its bid to acquire the underlying railway engineering business, follows a line of similar, if temporary, escapees. Caird Group's waste dumps had once seemed a attractive outlet for Severn Trent, until the disappointing results that had caused its initial share price slide turned out to be much worse on closer inspection. Sketchley also discovered some stubborn stains at the crucial moment.

The scorched earth defence, though of its nature always accidental, is extremely effective. Takeover bids, while seeming adventurous, are at heart an attempt by ambitious management to minimise risk.

Buying an existing business at a known price with known parameters, which the bidder usually hopes to improve, is usually often much less risky than a big project for internal expansion or starting a new business.

When the certainties of the victim company's business, finances and potential liabilities dissolve, this calculus goes horribly into reverse. Often, the bargain no longer seems worth having at any price.

For its efforts, William Cook appears to be sitting on a loss of about £1¼ million, having bought 7 per cent of Telfos in aid of its offer. Painful though that is, Cook will no doubt consider itself lucky compared with Severn Trent, which is sitting on almost 30 per cent of Caird at less than half the price of its withdrawn bid.

Such calulations no doubt explain why those why groups that make bids for a living, such as Hanson and BTR, rarely go in at the bottom. They are happy to pay a bit more after waiting for their intended victim's existing or reconstituted management to clear up the mess and leave them a healthy, wholesome meal.

EC decision boosts UK companies in South Africa

THE European Community's undertaking to lift sanctions against South Africa has given a psychological boost to British-owned companies here at a time when economic indicators are presenting an otherwise depressing forecast.

Investment prospects have clearly improved, chief executives say, and the comparative health in a two-tier currency system of the financial rand — which this week hit its highest in two years — is a sign that some money is flowing in. But while President FW de Klerk's latest reforms have been widely welcomed, managers' views reflect uncertainty over the country's future and concerns that labour force expectations may fuel militancy.

Few believe a lifting of sanctions will bring the kind of investment needed to revive quickly an economy with inflation at about 13.5 per cent and a projected growth rate this year of 0.2 per cent.

Investments signalled by British-owned companies recently range from opening a new jeans factory to a R35 million (£7 million) catalytic converter plant being built by Johnson Matthey near Johannesburg, a new Lonrho platinum mine in Bophuthatswana and a smelter established by RTZ at Richards Bay.

Another big project, industry sources say, will be a significant expansion of the Sapref Refinery in Durban, owned jointly by two British corporations in South Africa, BP and Shell. The sources estimate the project would cost well over R300 million.

A sceptic's view of the future was put by the manager of a British manufacturing concern who, insisting on anonymity, said: "If I was an investor sitting overseas I would be worrying about labour unrest and productivity — and the possibility that South Africa may just join the queue of Africa's derelicts."

That contrasts sharply with the buoyant view of Peter Emmel, managing director of Johnson Matthey (Pty) Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the British parent, who said: "I believe the new South Africa will bring growth to the economy. As soon as sanctions [illegible] there will be a flip-flop in attitudes about buying from South Africa. There could be a significant export boost."

Mr Emmel said the converter plant was expected to start production in October. "Exceptionally good" export opportunities existed for the product in Europe and Asia.

While such optimism is founded on a belief in export potential, Plessey South Africa's telecommunications business has been concentrated on a public sector in decline. Dr John Temple, managing director, says the company welcomes reform but sees hard times ahead, as government priorities turn from local government infrastructure and defence, which stimulated the communications industry, to housing and education.

In the longer term, Dr Temple added, the industry should revive as more black and coloured (mixed race) people acquire phones.

Plessey is also one of the British-owned concerns that stand to benefit from business with neighbouring states of the South African development co-ordination conference (SADCC). Ironically, this organisation was founded to reduce members' dependence on South Africa but is gradually coming to terms with its rehabilitated neighbour. Financing by, say, the World Bank for a project in Mozambique or Malawi could open up opportunities to companies like Plessey, Dr Temple said.

The most consistent expressions of management concern are for the future of labour relations. Al Leroy, managing director of Palabora Mining Co, RTZ's principal interest in South Africa, said investment would depend on the international perception of opportunities in South Africa. "I am personally cautious about what might develop, not politically but on the stability of the workforce nationally."

Palabora, one of the world's largest open-pit copper mines, has a good industrial relations record, with never a day's production lost to a strike, Mr Leroy emphasised. The company has exceeded "by a substantial margin" the recommendations of the EC code of conduct for companies with interests here governing union recognition, pay, training, fringe benefits and desegregation.

The majority of British companies, business analysts say, have fulfilled the recommendations of the code, and will be unlikely to be specifically targeted in any campaign of labour unrest.

The biggest British employers — BP, Shell, Unilever (with a workforce of about 7,000), Plessey and Reckitt & Colman — have, like RTZ, exceeded the EC stipulations by quite wide margins. More than 98 per cent of the 63,300 black workers employed by 93 companies with British majority holdings were paid above the minimum wage recommended by the code. The majority of companies have desegregated all facilities. Those contributing to black educational advancement or supporting community facilities remain, however, a minority.

The code of practice is likely to fall away after the lifting of sanctions, and there is no clear pattern of increasing industrial unrest. Some managers see union militancy on the wane as political frustration is redirected into activity within parties such as the ANC. Others believe the reverse to be the case. "Union leaders adopted a political role in the ANC's absence, and they are not going to give that up now," said one.

In the long term, if there is little likelihood of a surge of reinvestment, or a rush by companies that left South Africa to re-establish themselves, there is little doubt either that the future is a lot brighter than it was when organisations such as Barclays disinvested. A spokesman for Unilever said: "We have been here for a hundred years, and we've been through a lot of ups and downs in that time. Right now, we're looking to the future with optimism."

STEPHEN TAYLOR
Cape Town

De Klerk: his reforms have been widely welcomed

Second thoughts about Davy

TEMPUS

The market's first response to Davy Corporation's sale of its German arm was favourable, but it later decided, helped by a "sell" note from one of the engineer's former supporters in the City, that second thoughts were in order.

The shares, therefore, after an immediate jump to 131p, slipped 7p to 119p. Davy has had to bolster its balance sheet, essential if it is to regain credibility, and hence workload, after its recent much-publicised contractual disasters. It has done so by selling one of its more profitable businesses.

The German side contributed the equivalent of more than £9 million in the year to end-March 1990 to a group which managed only £30.1 million before tax during that period.

Davy will end up with £51 million after repayment of debt and a profit over book value of about £20 million. Further disposals are likely as the group slims back to its core metals engineering business.

The group expects to reach the financial year end with borrowings that are less than the £88 million it is owed by its client on the much-delayed Emerald Producer offshore rig contract.

Payment for this should come this summer, but there remains the uncertainty of legal action from the client to extract some compensation. Davy, inevitably, regards the boot as on the other foot and hopes for something to offset the £45 million provisions it made, mostly relating to Emerald, at the half-way stage.

Forecasts of £35 million pre-tax for the next financial year were cut to about £25 million by the German deal. The loss of a business on such a high tax rate will flatter earnings per share and leave the shares trading on little more than five times that year's earnings.

The shares have had a good run since the half-way figures and accompanying provisions. They come with more than their fair share of risk, until Davy's current problems are sorted out.

Unitech

PETER Curry, the founder, may have turned Unitech into an attractive high-tech international component manufacturing business, but that has not made it immune from the capital goods recession. Sales fell from £153 million to £126 million in the six months to end-November, and were no more than static after netting out disposals of two small subsidiaries and currency effects.

Despite a cut in interest charges, pre-tax profits fell 29 per cent to £8.8 million and earnings were down more than a third to 5.6p per share against a maintained interim dividend of 4.2p. That was much worse than City forecasts.

The group's main business is making power supply components, similar in effect to sophisticated transformers, for data processing and automation equipment. The smaller connector business also has automotive applications. Customers are having a tough time in America and Britain, although Germany is better and the Japanese business, which has made about 40 per cent of pre-tax profit but much less after tax and minorities, was still healthy.

The strength of sterling against the yen and the dollar cut profits by about £1 million, and costs of restructuring to a lower cost base were taken at the pre-tax level. Trade shows little sign of improvement. Even with lower costs and cash from a £15 million sale of shares in Nemic Lambda, the recently quoted Japanese subsidiary, Unitech will do well to make £19 million for the year to end-May. That would rate the shares, down 6p to 171p, at nearly 13¾ times likely earnings. The compensation is a 9 per cent dividend yield on the likely maintained full-year payment.

The share price fall would surely have been worse but for two crucial props. The remaining 52 per cent stake in the Japanese subsidiary is worth £95 million gross. That leaves the bulk of the business in for only £20 million.

Two Swiss groups — Elektrowatt, its partner, and Tito Tettamanti, the financier — control well over half the shares. The former invested at the equivalent of 300p and the latter has been rumoured as a potential bidder. Given management's long-term performance and the growth potential, the shares are a fair each-way bet at these levels.

Unemployment drops in EC

Luxembourg
AVERAGE unemployment in the European Community fell to 8.3 per cent last year compared with 8.9 per cent in 1989, the Community's statistics office said.

The monthly rate rose slightly, however, to 8.4 per cent in December from 8.3 per cent in November but was down from 8.5 per cent a year earlier, Eurostat said.

Henning Christophersen, the economic affairs commissioner, said he was satisfied with the fall last year. But he said that he was concerned with the monthly rise in December.

The European Commission forecast economic growth of 2.2 per cent this year, which would not be enough to reduce unemployment, he said.

But stronger expected growth of 2.5 per cent next year would prevent a further increase in the jobless figures, he added.

Community unemployment has fallen by nearly a quarter since the middle of the last decade, the Eurostat statement said. In Britain, Portugal and Luxembourg the jobless figure had decreased by about 40 per cent over the same period, it noted.

But in Denmark 10 per cent more people were out of work last year than five years earlier. "The trend in unemployment in this country is quite different from that of Europe and it is now experiencing the worst rate since 1986," Eurostat said.

Unemployment in Spain and what used to be West Germany had fallen by some 25 per cent since 1985, it said. No data was available for the former East German territory.

In France and Ireland unemployment had fallen by less than 15 per cent.

Unemployment had decreased faster among men than women since the middle of the last decade. *(Reuter)*

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Lyon	420	93	98	–	2½	6	–
(*507)	460	58	65	77	7	15	18
	500	30	40	50	22	32	35
ASDA	110	18	23	24	3	4½	6½
(*126)	120	10	16	18	6	8	11
	130	5½	11	14	12	14	17
Bass	900	87	110	135	14	25	30
(*958)	950	52	78	107	32	45	52
	1000	32	52	77	63	75	80
	1050	14	35	57	105	115	113
Boots	300	46	54	62	2½	7	9
(*339)	330	25	34	42	10	17	19
	360	8	17	27	27	30	33
Brit Air	120	23	24	26	2½	6	7½
(*139)	130	15	18	19	5	9½	12
	140	9	13	15	12	16	18
BP	280	44	50	57	3	6	9
(*321)	300	28	37	43	6½	11	15
	330	11	19	27	21	26	27
Brit Steel	110	14½	18	16½	1½	4½	6
(*120)	120	8	11	11½	5	9	10½
	130	3½	5½	–	12	18	–
C & W	390	108	122	–	1½	4	–
(*488)	420	82	95	107	4½	9	13
	460	50	65	80	11	19	25
	500	23	38	53	27	36	40
Com Union	420	78	82	90	3	6½	9
(*490)	460	40	52	60	12	16	21
	500	14	29	40	33	35	38
Courtauld	300	46	50	61	4	8	10
(*337)	330	23	29	40	12	16	20
	360	10½	16	25	30	35	38
GKN	280	43	47	50	7	11	15
(*323)	300	26	35	37	12	17	22
	330	11	21	24	30	35	39
Grand Met	600	102	120	132	4	10	14
(*689)	650	62	85	98	13	20	28
	700	28	52	68	33	42	46
ICI	850	117	130	137	14	23	32
(*964)	900	70	95	107	30	39	52
	950	34	65	80	57	64	75
Kingfisher	360	50	58	66	6	12	17
(*400)	390	28	40	49	13	22	28
	420	13	22	–	32	37	–
Ladbroke	200	32	36	43	4	8	12
(*230)	220	19	24	31	9½	16	20
	240	9	16	21	21	28	30
Land Sec	460	98	105	–	3	4	–
(*547)	500	62	70	80	4	10	12
	550	25	34	47	18	28	32
M & S	200	37	–	–	1½	–	–
(*232)	220	21	25	33	6	10	12
	240	9½	15	22	16	20	22
Sainsbury	280	62	67	–	1½	4½	–
(*335)	300	44	51	60	4	7½	10
	330	23	32	40	11	18	20
	360	8	16	28	31	34	38
Shell	420	34	50	60	11	15	19
(*452)	460	13	28	36	32	38	40
	500	4	12	–	70	72	–
Smkl Beech	550	130	142	–	2	5	–
(*667)	600	78	102	117	7	14	18
	650	43	67	84	21	28	35
Storehse	90	24	24	27	2	5	5
(*107)	100	14	17	20	5	8	10
	110	8	12	15	10	13	14
Trafalgar	160	49	52	55	2½	6	8
(*205)	180	33	34	43	5	12	14
	200	19	24	32	13	23	25
Ultramar	280	38	48	53	4	8	10
(*312)	300	21	38	43	12	17	19
	330	10	20	27	28	32	35
Unilever	600	92	102	–	5	8	–
(*690)	650	53	67	88	15	23	25
	700	21	40	57	40	47	52
	750	7	–	–	80	–	–
Utd Bisc	300	65	57	65	3	5	6
(*350)	330	28	35	42	9	12	14
	360	10	18	26	25	27	30

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAA	300	42	55	58	1½	7	10
(*342)	330	16	32	40	6	15	21
	360	3½	18	24	25	32	37
BAT Ind	500	150	155	163	1	3½	6
(*655)	550	100	110	122	1½	8	10
	600	61	70	87	3	18	25
	650	10	40	55	18	38	42
BTR	300	50	58	65	1	5	10
(*347)	330	22	32	38	3	14	17
	360	5	14	25	16	29	32
Brit Aero	500	48	60	77	2	17	28
(*546)	550	10	31	47	17	40	45
	600	2	12	–	60	72	–
Brit Telc	260	38	50	56	1	3	6
(*290)	280	20	33	38	2	6½	10
	300	5	18	25	8	13½	17
Cadbury	300	44	48	58	1½	5	7½
(*342)	330	14	24	37	4½	14	19
	360	4	12	28	29	32	34
Guinness	700	82	98	122	2	11	16
(*782)	750	36	63	88	6½	27	32
	800	7	36	60	29	52	55
GEC	160	28	36	38	½	1½	4
(*185)	180	8	17½	24	2	6	11
	200	1½	8	12	15	17	22
Hanson	180	30	38	41	1	2	4
(*212)	200	11½	22	26½	2	6	9
	220	1½	11	–	12	15	–
LASMO	300	68	73	82	2	4	7
(*367)	330	37	48	58	2	10	14
	360	14	30	40	11	28	27
P & O	460	62	72	78	2	11	16
(*521)	500	24	40	52	8	27	31
	550	4	16	27	37	57	60
Pilkington	160	16	25	28	2½	6½	11
(*175)	180	4	14	16	9	16	22
	200	1½	6½	9	28	29	36

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Prudential	180	35	38	41	1	2½	5
(*217)	200	16	20½	26	1½	7	10
	220	3	9	16	9½	18	19
Racal	160	20	31	31	2	7	8½
(*179)	180	5	16	22	6½	13	16
	200	2	8½	14	24	29	31
RTZ	420	62	59	74	2	11	17
(*473)	460	16	34	49	10	28	30
	500	4½	17	31	35	55	52
Scot & New	300	88	97	–	1½	2	–
(*391)	330	58	70	77	2	3	6
	360	28	45	53	3	9	14
	390	5	23	33	13	20	26
Tesco	214	26	31	37	1½	4	5
(*238)	233	8	17	25	3	9	11
	253	1	8	15	17	20	22
Thames Wtr	280	26	38	43	1½	6	10
(*303)	300	12	26	30	6	10	17
	330	4	11	17	28	30	34
Wtr Package	2300	730	–	–	10	–	–
(*£3035)	2350	680	–	–	10	–	–
	2400	630	–	–	10	–	–
Lucas	120	22	26	30	1½	4	7
(*142)	130	12	17	24	2	9	10
	140	5	12	18	6	12	14

	Series	Feb	Apr	Jul	Feb	Apr	Jul
Fisons	330	58	59	73	½	2½	6
(*383)	360	26	35	50	2	9	13
	390	6½	17	30	13	22	24

	Series	Nov	Jan	Mar	Nov	Jan	Mar
Abbey Nat	200	64	64	66	1	1½	1½
(*261)	220	44	45	48	1	3	5
	240	25	30	35	3½	7½	11
Amstrad	50	22	24½	26	1	2	2½
(*71)	60	13	16	19	2	3½	5
	70	6	9½	12	4½	7½	8½
Barclays	300	80	90	–	1½	3	–
(*384)	330	60	61	72	4	8	12
	360	32	42	50	11	15	23
	390	11	23	33	26	32	37
Blue Circ	200	47	50	53	2½	4½	8
(*243)	220	30	33	39	4½	10	14
	240	16	21	28	11	19	23
Brit Gas	200	51	57	59	1½	2½	3½
(*246)	220	31	39	42	2½	4	7
	240	13	24	27	6	9	12
Dixons	130	30	36	37	2	4	5½
(*159)	140	20	29	30	3½	6½	7
	160	6	15	19	9	11	14
Glaxo	750	180	200	–	2½	5	–
(*920)	800	130	157	182	4	10	17
	850	82	117	142	11	21	30
	900	44	82	109	27	37	47
Hawker	390	68	80	85	5	13	17
(*455)	420	42	52	65	10	25	30
	460	19	32	42	27	43	54
Hillsdown	140	57	58	59	1	4	5½
(*195)	160	37	40	45	3	8	10
	180	22	25	33	8	14	18
Lonrho	180	21	30	32	4	6½	11
(*194)	200	8	18	21	13	15	20
	220	3	9	14	29	30	32
Midland	140	49	49	52	2	2½	5
(*190)	160	30	32	33	4	8	12
	180	13	16	20	15	18	21
	200	4	9	13	30	32	36
Reuter	700	113	–	167	11	–	35
(*792)	750	77	–	137	23	–	57
	800	47	–	113	45	–	80
R-Royce	140	9	12	15	7½	12½	13
(*142)	160	1½	4½	8	21	26	27
	180	1	2½	4½	41	45	45
Sears	70	18	20	20	1½	2	3
(*87)	80	9	11	12	3	6	6
	90	3	6	7	7	12	12
THF	220	18	23	29	5½	12	14
(*235)	240	7	12½	20	15	22	25
	260	2	6½	12	31	37	38
Thorn EMI	550	118	135	–	2	3	–
(*651)	600	72	92	96	6	9	21
	650	30	57	63	17	26	40
	700	11	29	38	49	52	67
TSB	120	25	27	27	1	2	3
(*143)	130	15	17½	19	2½	4½	6½
	140	6	10½	13	6	9	12
Vaal Reefs	50	8	12	14	4	7	8
(*355)	60	4	8	10	12	14	16
Wellcome	390	107	120	–	1½	5	–
(*479)	420	75	93	110	4	10	14
	460	40	62	80	11	22	25

	Series	Mar	May	Aug	Mar	May	Aug
Eastn Elc	140	37	41	45	2	2	4½
(*174)	160	18	23	28	3	4½	10
	180	7	12	15	10	13	20
Southern Elc	140	42	45	–	1½	3	–
(*176)	160	22	27	–	3½	5	–
	180	9	13	–	9	11	–
Elc Package	1700	185	210	–	45	55	–
(*£1850)	1750	135	185	–	55	65	–
	1800	100	150	–	70	80	–

FT-SE INDEX (*2242)

	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250
Calls						
Feb	255	205	158	110	62	32
Mar	288	223	178	133	95	72
Apr	273	230	187	148	115	95
May	278	236	200	166	135	106
Jun	313	–	230	–	160	–
Puts						
Feb	2½	4	6	11	22	45
Mar	7	11	16	25	38	62
Apr	13	22	28	35	50	70
May	20	25	37	50	60	86
Jun	21	–	40	–	68	–

February 7, 1991 Total: 38159 Calls 25647 Puts 12512 FT-SE: Calls 7312 Puts 5480
*Underlying security price.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

On the slopes with the SE

LONDON is not only the top financial centre in Europe but also, it seems, has some of the most elastic sportsmen. Taking the biscuit for its sporting efforts is the team from the Stock Exchange Ski Club that has just returned from *Bourse '91*, the annual ski competition held between stock exchanges from round the world, which was held in Grindelwald last month. Richard Williamson, the not so agile club secretary, [illegible] team-mates by cracking three of his ribs before the races had even begun. "I fell over a rock and fell on a Walkman I was carrying in my pocket," says Williamson, who works on the European equity sales desk at Williams de Broë. Peter Fairly Clarke, a former engineering analyst at Greenwell Montagu who now acts as a consultant on conglomerates, was disqualified after he tried to compete in the women's under 25 category by mistake. Enjoying rather more success were Adrian Scott Knight, former secretary of the club, and Peter "Downhill" Dawson, who used to be a partner of Hoare Govett. Richard Lovell of Cobbold Roach, the club chairman, is lining up sponsors for the London-hosted event, due to be held in St Anton in January 1993.

Vested interest

THE snow, ice and freezing winds sweeping Britain have led to a surge in demand for thermal underwear, always a useful accessory at such times. The winner at the moment is Ritz Design Group, the main supplier of underwear to Marks and Spencer, which is struggling to meet a rush of orders for 20,000 dozen — or nearly a quarter of a million — vests, socks and other cosy items. "We are absolutely churning the stuff out," says Michael Bancroft, the chief executive, who is not one to turn his nose up at his own product. For Bancroft, who lives in a restored Georgian manor in the Cheshire countryside and raises pedigree sheep as a hobby, is bracing himself for the arrival of the lambing season, due to begin on Sunday. "When I go out at 4am in temperatures 10 degrees below zero, I will obviously be wearing my thermal underwear," he adds. The cold snap has surprised suppliers of thermal clothing, most of whom begin winding down after Christmas.

'I can't possibly finish the decorating — Homebase is closed.'

GRAFFITO on a hoarding in Swiss Cottage, North London: "Communism — the longest and most painful route from capitalism to capitalism."

True to word

DEREK Hunt, dapper and jovial chairman of MFI, the kitchen group, is not one to dwell on misfortune — even when his valued outlets are destroyed under his nose. For after the IRA firebombed the group's two stores in Northern Ireland last month, razing them to the ground, Hunt was quick to promise a speedy recovery to staff and customers. True to his word, it took three weeks to open a makeshift but fully stocked store in Lisburn, and local shoppers have been making the most of the opportunity. "We are sharing half a showroom with a timber merchant, and business is pouring in," says a spokesman, who adds that the company took £250,000 in orders in its first week, and more than £96,000 in its second.

Fire power

TIMES may be hard but, as with most things, there is always room for a good idea. Such is the view of Emma Molesworth-StAubyn, one of Britain's most enterprising young business stars, who six months ago set up EMTECH, a consultancy that gives advice on how to evacuate buildings during a fire. With the blessing of her father, Sir John Arscott Molesworth-StAubyn, 15th baronet and owner of Pencarrow, the stately home near Bodmin, Cornwall, she has built up a growing list of clients and is set to branch out from her London base. "I've always been a person who wants to do everything now," says Emma, aged 19, who counts a foreign City bank among her clients but is reluctant to mention any names. "I may be talking to boardroom directors one day and security staff the next." It could all be the last straw for City slickers, already far from amused at the regular fire drills in the Square Mile.

JON ASHWORTH

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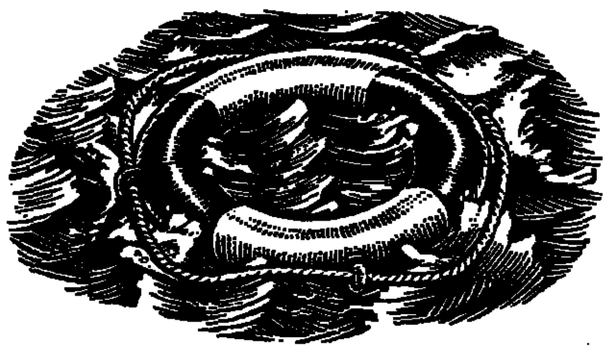

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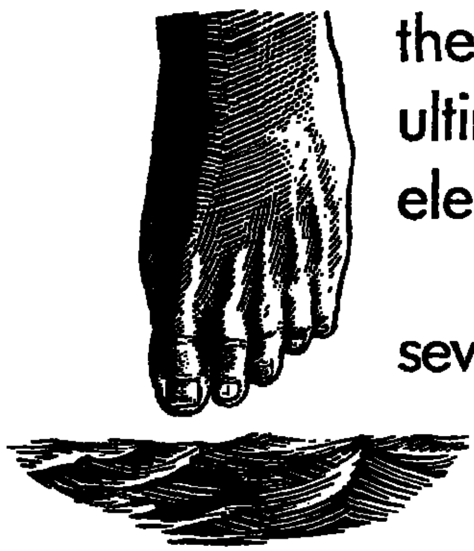

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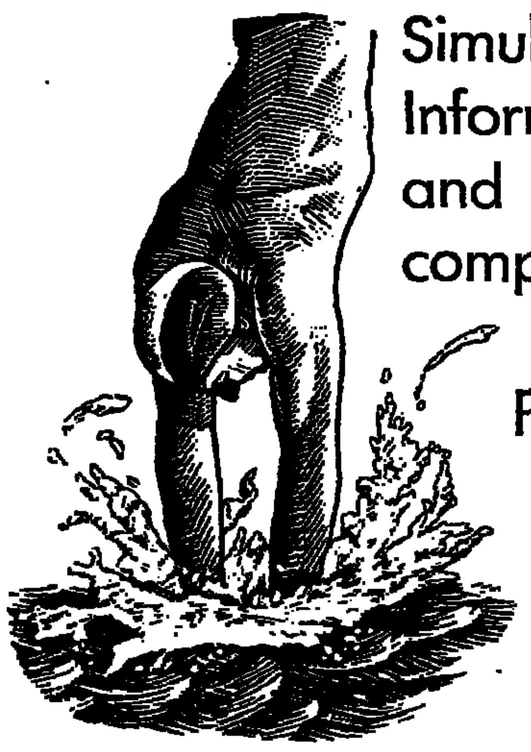

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Angela Mackay reports on a controversial accounting question

Capitalisation has become a matter of rising interest

Y developers are asing pressure to : conservative ac- ethods that give a ire of cashflow and . In the increas- -pressed property reaction to these less than totally

ılar, to capitalise or apitalise interest operty under dev- a choice a growing analysts and fund want taken away panies and their s.

boom period when profits are relent- yant, the issue of on of interest loses . But in the current particularly hard on] property values, is more important. y is masked by ng dealt with in the neet rather than ugh the profit and it.

ortland Estates, a roperty company, to capitalise in- nst its properties elopment, hence- enting a "clean" count. This clean wever, did not ex- Bride Hall, Great development and sidiary

MEPC and Hammerson, two of Britain's biggest property companies, responded quickly to Great Portland's move by declaring they had no intention of following suit.

In a recent note on the property sector, Smith New Court, the stockbroker, said; "It has seemed obvious to us for some time now that with capital values continuing to decline and anticipated rental levels, on new as well as old properties, becoming more uncertain, then a growing number of companies would find it very difficult to continue to add to the cost of developments in this way."

The issue is not confined to property companies

UBS Phillips & Drew has also voiced concern. "While commercial property prices were rising rapidly, investors and banks did not need to worry about the amount of interest being capitalised. However, in a more difficult property market, such as that at present, the substantial difference between profits and cashflow caused by the significant capitalisation of costs can become critical in investment terms."

The issue is not confined to property companies. Ladbroke, the hotel, betting, retailing and property development group, is one of the most prominent users outside the sector.

In the year to December 1990, Ladbroke is expected to capitalise interest of £70 million, or 49 per cent of its total interest charge, according to County NatWest, the broker. This month several brokers have downgraded profit forecasts for two reasons: the expected sharp drop in hotel occupancy caused by fewer tourists during the Gulf war and concern at the level of capitalised interest.

A fund manager from one of Britain's three biggest asset management groups, who asked not to be named, said Ladbroke's proportion of capitalised interest to pre-tax profits was growing, and in 1990 should be almost 25 per cent compared with about 20 per cent in 1989 when the company reported pre-tax profits of £302 million.

There needs to be some lead from the accounting bodies

Reducing capitalised interest was a matter he said he would like to see Ladbroke address this year, particularly in a bear market, but he was aware there were no accounting standards dealing specifically with the issue.

The Accounting Standards Board, however, is not specifically examining the matter. Capitalisation of interest is relevant to one board paper, SSAP 9, concerning stock held at cost or net realisable value. Capitalised interest is added to costs, which therefore rise, so accounting for interest in a different way cuts costs overall. This is Great Portland Estates' main objective.

If the appropriate accounting standard is not forthcoming, some analysts are suggesting other measures to make property accounts more transparent.

In its latest sector review, County NatWest called for greater disclosure and the standardisation of interest capitalisation policies. It concluded: "Obviously, ceasing capitalisation altogether is at one extreme end of the spectrum; however there does need to be some lead from the accounting bodies in order to lay the problem to rest."

War boosts business in video conferences

By OUR CITY STAFF

SALES of a telephone-video link between British companies and overseas firms have soared since executives cut down on travel because of the fighting in the Gulf.

British Telecom has dealt with a 150 per cent increase in enquiries for the video-conference service since the outbreak of Middle East hostilities last month.

Sales of the equipment, which costs £50,000 to buy or £1,400 an hour to rent, have risen by more than 60 per cent. Most interest has come from companies that trade with European and American firms.

A BT spokesman said: "As travelling becomes more difficult the benefits of communicating via a video telephone become more attractive."

Under the video-conference system several people can see and speak to each other at the same time.

One BT official said: "You can do everything except shake hands."

The company is expecting a big increase in sales after announcing yesterday a new communications service that will reduce the cost of the link.

Improvements to the digital network will open the doors to a number of new services mainly aimed at small and medium-sized companies.

BT has made available more than 20,000 extra lines throughout Britain to cover the new services, which include better and quicker transmission of facsimiles as well as the cheaper national and international video links.

David Dey, managing director of BT's business communications division, said the transmission of images opened up enormous possibilities.

He said: "Estate agents, travel agents and many other people need to be able to show images and moving pictures to their clients. Now they can do it over the phone."

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)*	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	602.1	0.6	4.9	0.7	5.8	0.7	8.5
(free)	115.1	0.6	4.9	0.7	5.7	0.7	8.5
EAFE	1029.6	0.9	4.9	0.8	3.9	1.0	8.6
(free)	105.8	0.9	4.9	0.7	3.7	1.0	8.5
Europe	617.2	0.9	3.7	0.8	3.8	1.0	7.3
(free)	133.3	0.9	3.5	0.6	3.3	1.1	7.1
Nth America	442.1	0.1	4.9	0.2	8.6	0.2	8.6
Nordic	1159.1	0.2	6.6	0.1	6.9	0.3	10.3
(free)	190.0	0.6	6.2	0.5	6.4	0.7	9.9
Pacific	2286.7	0.8	6.0	0.7	4.0	0.9	9.7
Far East	3315.7	0.8	6.1	0.7	3.9	1.0	9.7
Australia	237.6	0.1	3.5	−0.3	5.7	0.2	7.1
Austria	1270.8	0.3	−2.9	0.1	−2.4	0.5	0.5
Belgium	725.4	0.9	2.7	0.7	2.7	1.1	6.3
Canada	431.6	0.4	1.5	0.6	4.9	0.5	5.0
Denmark	1140.9	2.3	5.8	2.1	5.9	2.4	9.4
Finland	62.3	0.3	−3.2	0.3	−2.2	0.5	0.2
(free)	89.2	0.2	3.7	0.1	4.8	0.3	7.3
France	592.8	0.1	3.4	0.0	3.8	0.2	7.0
Germany	701.2	0.8	2.4	0.6	2.8	0.9	6.0
Hong Kong	2059.8	−0.9	7.1	−0.9	10.8	−0.8	10.8
Italy	255.8	1.5	0.2	1.4	0.3	1.6	3.7
Japan	3478.5	0.9	6.1	0.8	3.6	1.0	9.7
Netherlands	738.3	1.8	0.0	1.6	0.3	1.9	3.5
New Zealand	59.1	7.1	14.8	6.7	15.7	7.2	18.7
Norway	1059.9	0.2	−4.9	0.0	−4.9	0.3	−1.6
(free)	187.6	0.2	−3.5	0.0	−3.6	0.3	−0.1
Sing/Malay	1515.1	0.3	4.5	0.5	6.4	0.4	8.1
Spain	179.3	0.7	9.2	0.6	7.9	0.8	13.0
Sweden	1285.2	−0.8	12.9	−0.9	13.3	−0.7	16.8
(free)	186.0	−0.9	12.1	−1.0	12.5	−0.8	16.0
Switzerland	749.2	0.8	6.2	0.7	6.3	0.9	9.9
(free)	113.0	0.7	5.1	0.5	5.3	0.8	8.8
UK	665.1	1.2	4.1	1.2	4.1	1.3	7.7
USA	401.4	0.1	5.2	0.2	8.9	0.2	8.9

(lc)* Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

uary lorry sales fall 30% recession grips industry

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ıles fell by 30 per ıary, a clear indica- ıe impact of the on the transport nd the length and f the economic

ırries contrast with les for last month. sales were still in ing by 20 per cent, not as steep as the ıonth, when they by 28 per cent. nanufacturers are as a distinct im- But there is little if or optimism in the figures for commercial vehicles released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Registrations in January were 20,131, 30.5 per cent down on the figure of 28,944 for January 1990.

Because companies are not selling goods, fewer are being transported. This is in turn reflected in the number of goods vehicles being bought, as companies hang on to their current vehicles rather than replace them. But the fall in lorry sales also indicates that few companies see much prospect over the coming months of their business improving, adding weight to suggestions from business economists that the recession has a good way yet to run.

The SMMT suggested that the cost of borrowing was a principal factor in the running slump in lorry sales. Simon Foster, SMMT director, said: "The continuing decline in commercial vehicle sales is extremely serious and is likely to continue until interest rates fall."

Imported vehicles, meanwhile, maintained their market share of 38.08 per cent.

Porvair recovers to near double profits

By MARTIN BARROW

PORVAIR, the specialist plastics manufacturer, has recovered from the severe setback suffered in 1989, when profits fell by 44 per cent.

During the 12 months to end-November, the Unlisted Securities Market company earned pre-tax profits of £1.51 million, almost double the previous year's profits of £758,000. Earnings a share rose to 11.6p (6.3p). The total dividend is increased from a maintained 2.7p a share to 3p, with a final dividend of 2p.

John Morgan, chairman and chief executive, said: "We have successfully redressed the position of the company from the temporary setback in 1989. Although current world events and the economic climate cannot be ignored, the directors are confident of building upon our achievements of 1990."

Group turnover rose to £15.54 million (£12.7 million), with exports accounting for 89 per cent of sales and operating profits rose to £1.86 million (£1 million). The recovery was attributed to increased sales, particularly in the footwear and leather goods subsidiaries Poromerics and Permair, and tight cost control.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Strong advance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 28. Dealings end today. §Contango day Monday. Settlement day February 18. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Greycoat	Property	
2	Diploma	Industrials A-D	
3	Beazer PLC	Building, Roads	
4	Menzies (John)	Drapery, Stores	
5	MB Caradon 7¾ Pf	Industrials L-R	
6	Vaux Group	Breweries	
7	Welsh Water	Water	
8	Nthn Foods	Foods	
9	Lucas	Motors, Aircraft	
10	Reed Int	Newspapers, Pub	
11	British Gas	Oil, Gas	
12	NFC	Transport	
13	Barclays	Banks, Discount	
14	Wilson Bowden	Building, Roads	
15	Bibby (J)	Industrials A-D	
16	Norcros	Industrials L-R	
17	Dixons Grp	Drapery, Stores	
18	Domino	Electricals	
19	Abbey National	Banks, Discount	
20	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
21	Brown Shipley	Banks, Discount	
22	Nichols (JN) (Vimto)	Foods	
23	Bentalls	Drapery, Stores	
24	Land Sec	Property	
25	ECC Group	Industrials E-K	
26	Tesco	Foods	
27	BOC	Industrials A-D	
28	Securiguard	Industrials S-Z	
29	Argyll	Foods	
30	Hardys & Hansons	Breweries	
31	Christies Int	Industrials A-D	
32	GKN	Industrials E-K	
33	BET Ord	Industrials A-D	
34	Watson & Philip	Foods	
35	MEPC	Property	
36	Barratt Devs	Building, Roads	
37	Marks Spencer	Drapery, Stores	
38	Watts Blake	Building, Roads	
39	Newman Tonks	Building, Roads	
40	BWI	Industrials A-D	
41	Smurfit (Jeff)	Paper, Print, Adv	
42	Abbey	Building, Roads	
43	Meyer Int	Building, Roads	
44	Courts Furnishers	Drapery, Stores	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £6,000 will be added to today's competition.

Portfolio PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited

DAILY DIVIDEND

£8,000

Claims required for +53 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
224	119	Ryl Bk Scot	173	176●	+1	11.2	6.4	8.2
902	613	Schroders	650	670	+12	22.2	3.4	9.0
515	205	Stand Chart	267	270	+17	46.7	17.4	..
147	114	TSB	142	144	+2	8.5	5.9	10.7
611	400	Union Disc	580	587	+5	48.7	8.3	9.9
525	284	Warburg SG	347	352	-2	20.0	5.7	6.1
179	50	Do 6% 'A'	117	120	+2	6.8	6.7	–
50¾	21⅝	Wells Fargo	34¾		+4¾	–	–	–
279	120	Westpac	154	158	-2	–	–	–
420	286	Wintrust	265	295	–	11.8	4.1	7.8

BREWERIES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
520	408	Allied-Lyons	505	518●	+11	23.4	4.6	10.6
11¾	895	Bass (sd)	955	960●	+21	43.2	4.5	9.7
170	124	Boddington	133	137	+2	7.2	5.3	14.2
208	161	Bulmer (H P)	178	187●	–	10.6	5.8	13.7
227	108	Burtonwood Brew	105	110●	-1	5.3	4.9	10.1
400	230	Clark (Matthew)	355	363	–	18.0	5.0	12.5
286	115	Devenish (JA)	145	153●	+4	7.1	4.6	11.0
115	45	Fosters Brewing Gp	53	55	–			
680	521	Grand Met	685	692●	+29	27.2	3.9	12.5
389	274	Greenall Wht	288	290●	+1	13.9	4.5	11.4
420	313	Greene King	385	387●	+2	13.8	3.5	13.9
820	630	Guinness	780	783	+6	21.7	2.8	16.5
855	670½	Hardys & Hansons	885	910●	+5	44.7	5.0	11.0
259	182	Highland Dist	241	249	–	6.4	2.6	16.6
133	120	Invergordon Dist	141	144	+2	6.7	4.7	12.7
480	375	Mansfield	420	428	-1	15.3	3.6	11.0
222	160	Marston Thompson	185	190	–	5.6	3.0	15.3
600	240	Morland	238	280	–	8.6	3.5	12.1
738	485	SA Breweries	670	680	-40			
391	278	Scot & New	389	392●	+12	18.2	4.7	14.0
329	174	Vaux Group	189	195	+5	11.7	6.1	9.9
470	360	Whitbread 'A'	458	461	+3	20.4	4.4	12.8
14¼	11¾	Do 'B'	13	14	–	20.4	1.5	37.7
430	339	Wolverhampton & D	425	433	+4	12.4	2.9	12.1
485	289	Young 'A'	380	388	–	16.0	4.1	16.5

BUILDING, ROADS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
130	40	Abbey	50	60	+5	—●	–	–
504	180	Amec	220	225	+1	13.0	5.8	6.5
132	17	Anglia Sec	25	28	–			
155	73	Ancliffe	65	80	–	8.0	12.3	1.9
631	162	Attwoods	198	205 x	-2	6.3	3.1	17.6
259	180	BPB Ind	200	204	–	15.0	7.4	8.6
144	69	Baggeridge Brick	72	79●	–	4.2	5.5	9.0
71	25	Bailey (Ben) Constr	28	33	-1	2.5	8.1	3.2
185	87	Barden Group	100	105	+3	5.1	5.0	10.6
215	57	Barratt Devs	70	74	+7	12.0	16.7	7.8
178	82	Beazer PLC	115	118	+6	10.8	9.6	6.8
217	144	Bellway	203	207	–	14.7	7.2	11.0
41	9	Bellwinch	6	11	–			

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

ELECTRICITY

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E - K

L - R

S - Z

INSURANCE

Investment Trusts appear on Page 22

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
116	72	Goal Pet	78	80	–	1.3	1.6	–
241	115	Gt Western Res	110	120	–	5.5	4.6	–
23¾	15¾	Hamilton	19¾		+2¾	–	–	
223	163	Hardy O & G	188	193	-2	–	–	16.7
35	2	Kelt Energy	2¼	2½	–			
638	317	LASMO	365	368	+18	10.3	2.8	23.2
210	130	Do Units	160	170	–	34.4	20.6	–
49¾	28¾	Monument	35	35½	+¼	–	–	26.5
25½	11	New London	12½	14 f	–	–	–	–
34	19	Nth Sea Assets	26	28	–	–	–	81.6
39	16	Oil Search	22	24	+2			

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

SHOES, LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
653	518	BAT	650	653	+15	41.5b	6.4	11.3
805	597	Rothmans 'B'	705	718	+11	20.5	2.9	16.5

TRANSPORT

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
333	187	Assoc Br Ports	172	177	+1	9.0	5.1	7.7
472½	325	BAA	340	343	-3	16.3	4.8	9.2
248	122	Br Airways	138	140	-¼	11.8	8.5	4.7
65	23	Boustead	22	23½	–	2.1	9.1	4.8
387	319	Caledonia	355	365	–	16.7	4.6	13.9
287	138	Clarkson (H)	143	148	+3	10.3	7.1	8.0
755	75	Davies & Newman	90	130	–	—●	–	–
653	295	Eurotunnel Units	495	500	+3	–	–	–
58	17½	Eurotunnel Warrants	25½	28	+¼			
151	76	Fisher (James)	72	77	–	6.7	8.9	6.3
198	85	Graig	85	95	–	3.3	3.7	4.8
121	94	Hays	102	104	–	4.7	4.6	10.7
75	36	Jacobs (JI)	35	37	–	5.7	15.8	45.0
282	173	Lep	128	130	–	8.3	6.4	8.8
35	18½	Manchester Ship	14	20	–	—●	–	20.1
211	133	Mersey Docks	169	173	–	6.0	3.5	25.3
175	104	NFC	131	134●	+3	7.5	5.6	1.8
380	251	Ocean Group	280	285	+2	18.5	6.3	12.0
55	30	Ocean Wilson	32	35	+2	3.7	10.9	1.8
665	463	P & O Dfd	520	524	+17	40.7	7.8	10.2
114	79½	P & O 5.5%	88	93	–	7.3	8.1	–
400	259	Powell Duffryn	270	278	+14	30.1	11.0	8.1
212	34	TIP Europe	38	42	-1	7.1	17.6	2.9
144	32	TNT	51	54	–			
320	243	Tibbett & Britten	300	305	+3	10.7	3.5	15.6
585	305	Tiphook	325	332	-1	13.3	4.0	7.0
248	161	Transport Dev	222	225	+2	12.7	5.7	12.8
245	85	Turnbull Scott	75	85	–	–	–	2.4

WATER

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
313	208	Anglian Water	305	308●	–	20.4	6.6	7.1
317	218½	Northumbrian	310	314●	+7	21.4	6.9	5.8
319	211½	North West	302	305●	–	21.0	6.9	6.6
285	190	Severn Trent	283	286●	-4	19.8	6.9	4.9
300	191	Sthn Water	285	290●	-9	20.8	6.9	6.2
327	209	South West	317	322●	+3	23.2	7.3	5.1
314	208	Thames Water	301	305●	-1	21.4	7.1	7.5
332	219	Welsh Water	322	327●	-7	22.4	6.9	5.3
297	209	Wessex Water	332	336●	-3	20.3	6.1	6.4
321	227½	Yorkshire Water	307	310●	-8	20.6	6.7	6.6
£2040	£1000	Package Unit	£2025	●	+£17			

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

STOCK MARKET

Shares soar on talk of rates cut

GROWING speculation about a possible cut in bank base rates and another strong performance on Wall Street sent shares soaring in London.

Despite heavy snowfall across Britain and the terrorist attack on the government, the FT-SE 100 index closed 48.9 points higher at 2,243.7. Turnover reached almost 600 million shares and the FT index of 30 shares jumped 37.4 points to 1,756.2.

Dealers claim that attempts by the Bank of England to dampen speculation about an imminent cut in interest rates have failed. City fund managers have known for some time that the London stock market offers good value and now appear to have prejudged a cut in rates by starting to reinvest some of their substantial cash balances.

Business was slow at the start of trading as dealers struggled through the snow to work. But the pace soon picked up and another firm start on Wall Street enabled prices to close near their highs for the day.

Government securities were encouraged by the news that the government broker had exhausted remaining supplies in the tap Treasury 9 per cent 2000 and sold supplies of other tap stocks. Prices at the longer end of the market rose by as much as £½.

Leading shares, including the big dollar earners, were all marked sharply higher, with ICI 26p better at 968p, Glaxo 14p at 919p, and BAT Industries 15p at 652p.

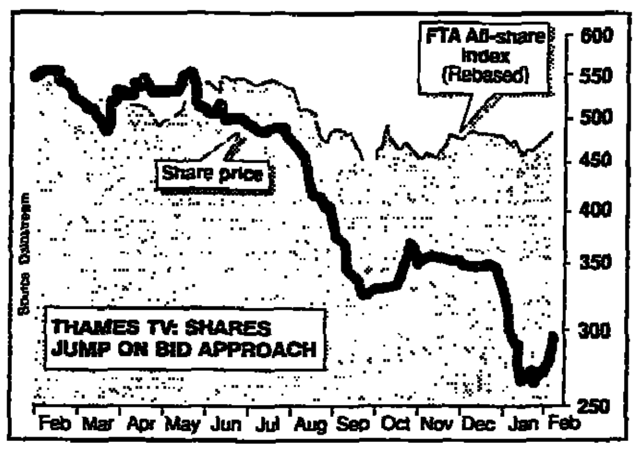
News of a bid approach sent shares of **Thames Television**, the independent television contractor, up 18p to 291p. The group said talks are at an advanced stage and could lead to an offer of between 250p and 300p a share.

There has been much speculation about a possible bid for Thames since Thorn EMI and BET both announced they were looking for buyers for their respective stakes in the company. They each hold 28 per cent. Thorn fell 4p to 651p, while BET continued to shrug off the ill-effects of a recent bear raid with a rise of 6p to 115p.

Carlton Communications, the film and television services group headed by Michael Green, was being tipped as a possible suitor for Thames, although this was ruled out by sources close to Carlton.

Carlton, up 8p at 377p, confirmed that it would be bidding for one of the independent television franchises on offer this year and had appointed Nigel Walmsley, the managing director of Capital Radio, to head its bid. Mr Walmsley has resigned from his job at Capital, down 4p at 138p.

There is a growing consensus that a rights issue queue is building up outside the market. Now that Tesco has tested the water, others will follow. Cadbury Schweppes has been suggested as a candidate. Its borrowings are estimated at 150 per cent of shareholders' funds.



THAMES TV: SHARES JUMP ON BID APPROACH

Next, the troubled retailer, firmed 1p to 22p. Last week, it announced the sale of its Grattan mail order business to Otto Versand, the German mail order group, for £140 million. But there is talk that rival Sears, the Selfridges stores and Freemans mail order group, may step in with a full bid for the company. Sears, up 3p to 86½p, has made no secret of its ambition to gain control of Grattan. Next was forced to dispose of Grattan in order to reduce the group's heavy indebtedness.

Elsewhere in the stores sector selective support saw rises for **Argos**, 4p to 269p, **Austin Reed A**, 3p to 126p, **Boots** 6p to 339p, **Great Universal Stores A** 20p to £11.99, **Kingfisher** 12p to 400p, **Marks and Spencer**, **John Menzies** 4p to 301p, **Ratners** 2p to 130p, and **Storehouse** 2p to 107p.

Dixons, the high street electrical retailer, rose 5p to 159p. The group has appointed Cazenove, the broker, as an agent to purchase the outstanding amount of £68 million of 6¾ per cent convertible guaranteed bonds 2002 for cancellation.

Etam, the fashion retailer, jumped 10p to 117p. Oceana Investment Corporation wants to buy 50 per cent of the shares, leaving the rest to existing shareholders. The Etam board has rejected the offer as not being in the best interests of shareholders.

Dalgety rose 5p to 370p. Salomon Brothers, the securities house, is bullish about long-term earnings prospects and believes the group will benefit from a strong balance sheet. On Monday, Dalgety is expected to announce pre-tax profits of £115 million (£118 million) for the year to end-June.

Oil shares followed the lead of American oil companies, which enjoyed a strong performance overnight on Wall Street. Dealers said institutional support was bolstered by the freezing weather conditions, which are certain to boost oil consumption during the next few weeks. Among the leaders, **BP** jumped 12p to 321p, **Burmah** 14p to 522p, **Calor Group** 10p to 231p, **Enterprise** 17p to 523p, **Lasmo** 18p to 367p, **Shell** 18p to 454p and **Ultramar** 8p to 312p.

The terrorist attack on Downing Street and the general absence of tourists in the wake of the Gulf war made for early falls among hotel and leisure related companies. But prices recovered, helped by buoyant conditions elsewhere in the market.

Hoteliers like **Queens Moat**, up 3p at 82p, **Trusthouse Forte**, 5p better at 235p, **Bass**, 21p stronger at 958p, and **Ladbroke**, all square at 230p, have suffered a fall in occupancy rates because of the reduction in tourists.

BAA, Britain's leading airport operator, has also been a casualty of the drop in trade. The shares slipped 3p to 342p after a profits downgrading by UBS Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, and the news that the profit contribution from Stansted Airport after recent expansion will be delayed by up to a year.

This provided a dull backdrop for **Nikko Securities** to introduce the group to Japanese institutional investors. Despite the slump in air traffic figures, Nikko paints a bright picture of prospects.

MICHAEL CLARK

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol 000		Vol 000		Vol 000		Vol 000
Abbey Nat	3,826	Cadbury	1,424	L&G	1,382	Royal Bnk	1,075
Alld-Lyons	3,619	CU	510	Lloyds	3,028	Royal Ins	2,463
Anglian	802	Courtaulds	814	Lonrho	2,598	Sainsbury	3,814
ASDA	4,458	Dalgety	1,076	Lucas	2,476	Scot & N	892
AB Foods	605	Enterprise	1,356	M&S	10,093	Sears	4,767
Argyll	1,798	Eurotunnel	1,149	Maxwell Cm	857	Severn Trnt	1,355
BAA	2,562	Fisons	2,438	MEPC	1,830	Shell	4,880
BET	7,869	Gen Acc	2,169	Midland	2,527	Smith & N	1,271
BTR	3,553	GEC	8,226	Nat West	3,627	SK Beech	2,835
BAT	3,252	Glaxo	2,488	N W Water	1,488	Sun Allnce	2,695
Barclays	3,050	Grand Met	2,869	P&O	758	Tarmac	4,954
Bass	786	GUS A'	453	Pearson	209	Tate Lyle	1,882
BICC	889	GRE	2,438	Pilkington	1,288	TSB	5,450
Bt Scotlnd	2,361	GKN	573	Prudential	3,864	Tesco	4,755
Blue Circle	2,111	Guinness	1,808	Racal	5,586	Thames Wtr	1,015
BOC	1,885	Hamm A'	105	Rk Hovis	1,708	Thorn EMI	1,285
Boots	2,274	Hanson	13,528	Rank	711	Trafalgar	3,901
Br Aero	1,316	H & C	1,518	R&C	182	THF	4,767
Br Airways	11,028	Hawker	727	Redland	1,020	Ultramar	4,144
Br Gas	17,000	Hillsdown	3,465	Reed	710	Unilever	1,568
Br Petrol	11,707	ICI	979	Reuters	1,948	Untd Bis	840
Br Steel	5,080	Kingfisher	923	RMC Gp	913	Wellcome	714
Br Telecm	7,658	Lasmo	2,647	RTZ	1,848	Whitbrd	1,080
Burmah Cst	819	Ladbroke	3,648	R-Royce	8,137	Wig Teape	4,661
C&W	2,154	Land Sec	1,306	Rothmn 'B'	675	Willis Cor	1,170

TOKYO

Nikkei rises above 24,000

Tokyo

Shares closed firmer for the fourth successive day, buoyed by Wall Street's overnight rally and the yen's strength. The Nikkei index closed above 24,000 for the first time since December 21 as fears that options-related selling would drive the index down proved unfounded.

Traders said that the market had been waiting for an index-linked sell-off. One said that holders of February put options expiring today wanted the Nikkei index to stay down. He added: "When it didn't happen, the market started buying."

The Nikkei closed 152.39 points, or 0.64 per cent higher, at 24,104.43 after 520 million shares were traded.

The market opened to news of strong gains on Wall Street an overnight advance by the yen. Large orders by foreign firms added momentum to strong buying sentiment and helped the Nikkei up 148.09 points in the first 15 minutes of trade.

Profit-taking and worries about options expiry trimmed gains, but buying picked up when the options-related sell-off failed to materialise half an hour before the close. (*Reuter*)

WALL STREET

Blue chips take Dow lower in heavy trade

New York

BLUE chips lost ground in mid-morning trading, but the broader market held firm, traders said. Analysts predicted that profit-taking would prompt buying late in the session.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 4.95 points lower at 2,825.99. Gaining issues, however, held a small lead over declining shares in heavy trading. Jack Conlon, managing director of Rothschild, said: "I think we're toward the top end of the trading range. Stock selection is getting more difficult."

☐ **Hong Kong** — Later profit-taking left the Hang Seng index 31.48 points lower at 3,333.98, well below its mid-day high of 3,358. "With shares overbought, it was natural to see some profit-taking," said one analyst. The value of turnover reached HK$1.69 billion (£109 million), well above turnovers of about HK$550 million seen last week.

☐ **Singapore** — The Straits Times industrial index ended at the day's high of 1,295.80, up 9.63 points. Brokers said investors, encouraged by sharp gains in overseas markets, continued to buy, although the local market was thought to be overbought. One broker said: "There was some profit-taking at mid-session which was well absorbed. With interest rates falling, the market could be in for a bull run." He said the index may soon test resistance at 1,300.

☐ **Sydney** — The All-Ordinaries index closed 4.2 points lower at 1,344.5. The market endured another day of roller-coaster trade as nervous investors took profits. Brokers said buying, prompted by a big gain on Wall Street overnight was tempered by market expectations of a short correction after the recent bull run.

☐ **Frankfurt** — The Dax index ended 7.57 points, or 0.5 per cent, higher at 1,436.26 after touching 1,445.33 at one stage. The dynamism which pushed shares 1.2 per cent higher in early trade only faded towards the end of the session. (*Reuter*)

	Feb 7 midday	Feb 6 close
Abbott Lab	45⅞	44⅞
Aetna Life	47⅝	46⅞
Ahmanson	16⅞	16⅞
Air Prods	59⅞	59⅞
Albertsons	40⅞	38⅞
Alcan Al	21⅝	21⅞
Alco Stand	34⅞	33⅞
Allied Signal	31⅞	30⅝
Alumin CA	65⅞	65⅞
Am Brands	44⅞	42⅞
Am Cyanmd	55⅞	55⅞
Am EPC	28	27⅞
Am General	36⅝	38⅛
Am Home	55	55⅛
Am Intl	88⅞	88
Am Medical	4⅞	4⅞
Am Stores	65⅞	65⅞
Amax	24⅞	23⅞
Amer Hess	48	48
Ameritech	68⅞	68
Amex	24⅞	24⅞
Amoco	53⅞	52⅞
AMP	49⅞	50⅞
AMR	57⅛	57⅛
Anheuser-B	46⅞	46⅞
Apple Comp	58⅛	56⅞
Archer-Dan	23⅞	22⅞
Arkla	19	18⅞
Armstrong	28⅞	27⅛
Asarco	29⅝	28⅝
Ashland Oil	32⅞	31⅛
AT&T	34	32⅛
Atlan Richfld	129⅞	128
Auto DP	63⅞	63⅞
Avery Intl	22⅞	22⅞
Avon Prod	36⅛	35
Baltimore	27⅛	26⅛
Banc One	33⅞	33⅛
Bankamerica	32⅛	32⅞
Bard	19⅛	19⅛
Barnett Bl	25	25⅞
Bausch Lmb	74⅞	74⅞
Baxter Intl	30⅞	30
Bec Dickin	74⅞	72⅞
Bell Atlan	50⅞	49⅞
Bellsouth	53⅞	52⅞
Bkr Hughes	27⅛	26⅞
Black Decker	11⅛	11⅞
Block	47⅞	47⅞
Bnkrs Tst NY	46	45⅞
Boeing	52	52⅞
Boise Casc	27⅛	28
Borden	32⅞	32⅞
Brist-Myer	72	71⅛
Browng-Fer	27⅛	27⅞
Burl Nth	31⅛	31⅞
CAI	10	9⅞
Campbell Sp	64⅞	64⅛
Cap Cities	473⅞	472
Capital HC	47⅞	47⅛
Carolina	45⅛	45⅞
Caterpillar	48⅝	49⅛
CBS	167⅞	165⅞
Central SW	44⅞	44
Champion	29	28⅛
Chase Man	13⅞	13⅛
Chem Bnkg	15⅛	15⅞
Chevron	74⅞	72⅞
Chrysler	13	12⅛
Chubb	65⅛	63⅞
Cigna	47⅝	47⅞
Citicorp	15⅛	15⅛
Clbrne Liz	37⅛	38
Clorox	39⅞	39⅞
Cmwlth Edis	37⅞	36⅞
CNA Fincl	79⅞	78
Coastal	33⅛	31⅛
Coca-Cola	50⅛	51⅞
Colgate-Pal	74⅞	73⅞
Columb Gas	47⅞	46
Compaq	70⅞	69⅞
Conagra	40⅛	39⅞
Cons Edis	23⅞	23⅞
Cons NG	43⅞	43
Cons Rail	49	48⅛
Cooper Ind	46⅞	47⅛
Corning	53⅞	54
CPC Intl	77⅞	75
Crown Cork	66	65⅝
CSX	38⅞	37⅛
Dana	31⅞	31⅞
Dayton-Hud	69⅞	68⅞
Deere	53⅞	54⅞
Delta Air	73⅛	72⅞
Deluxe	37⅞	37
Detroit Edi	29	28⅞
Digital Eq	71⅝	72⅛
Dillard	97⅞	95⅞
Disney	118⅞	118⅞
Dominion	48⅞	45⅞
Donnelley	43⅝	43
Dover	39⅝	39⅞
Dow Chem	51⅞	52⅞
Dow Jones	27⅞	27
Dresser Ind	25⅞	25⅝
Du Pont	37⅞	37
Duke Pwr	28⅞	27⅞
Dun Bradst	47⅞	47⅞
East Kodak	44⅝	44
Eaton	58	56⅝
Emerson El	43⅞	44⅞

	Feb 7 midday	Feb 6 close
Enron	54⅞	53⅞
Entergy	22⅞	22⅞
Ethyl	27⅞	27
Exxon	54⅞	52⅞
Fed NMA	45⅛	44
Fedrl Expre	43⅛	43⅛
Ft Norstar	14⅞	13⅞
Fluor	44⅞	43⅞
FMC	35⅞	35⅞
Ford Motor	31⅞	29⅞
FPL	29⅞	29
Fst Chicago	24⅞	24⅛
Fst Intrste	34⅛	33⅞
Fst Union	20⅛	20⅛
Gannett	42⅞	42⅞
Gen Cinema	21⅞	21
Gen Elec	66⅞	66⅞
Gen Mills	49	48⅞
Gen Motors	36⅝	35⅞
Gen RE	82⅛	83⅞
Gen Signal	41⅛	41⅞
Genentech	27	28
Genuine Pts	40⅛	39
Georgia-Pac	44⅞	43⅞
Gillette	67⅞	66⅛
Goodrich	40	40⅝
Goodyear	20⅛	20
Grace	27⅞	27⅞
Greyhound	29⅞	29⅞
Gt Atlantic	49⅝	48⅛
Gt Western	15⅞	15⅞
GTE	31⅛	30⅞
Halliburtn	48	47⅛
Heinz	34⅞	34⅝
Hercules	37⅞	37
Hershey Fd	41⅞	41⅞
Hewlett Pkd	39⅞	38⅞
Hilton Htl	40⅞	40⅛
Home Depot	48⅞	45⅞
Homestake	16⅞	15⅛
Honeywell	51⅞	51⅞
Houston Ind	37⅞	37⅞
Hsehld Intl	39⅞	38⅛
Humana	46⅞	45⅞
IBM	130⅞	130
IF&F	80⅞	79⅛
Illinois TW	56⅞	55⅞
Inco	30⅞	30⅛
Ingsol-Rand	45	43⅞
Inland Steel	24⅛	23⅛
Intel	50⅞	50
Intl Paper	61⅛	61⅝
ITT	55⅞	55
James River	27⅛	26⅛
Johnsn Jhsn	78⅞	77
K Mart	34⅛	33⅞
Kellogg	81⅞	80
Kerr-McGee	45	44⅞
Kmbly-Clrk	87	87
Knght-Rddr	51⅞	50⅞
Lilly	74⅛	75⅞
Limited	23⅞	23⅞
Ln Brdcstg	70⅞	70
Lincln Nat	52	50⅞
Litton Ind	83⅞	83⅛
Lockheed	41⅛	40⅛
Louis-Pac	29⅛	30⅛
Manu Hano	24⅛	24⅛
Marriott	14⅝	14
Marsh Mclen	78⅞	78⅞
Martin Mar	53⅞	52⅞
Masco	21⅛	21⅛
May Dept	48⅞	48⅛
Maytag	12⅞	12
MCA	n/a	n/a
McDnl Doug	45	45⅛
McDonalds	29⅞	29⅞
McGraw-Hill	56⅞	56⅛
MCI Com	24⅞	25
Mead	29	29⅞
Medtronic	101⅞	100⅛
Melville	48⅝	48⅛
Merck	87	87⅝
Merl Lynch	26⅝	25⅞
MM&M	87⅞	87⅞
Mobil	60⅞	58⅞
Monsanto	56⅝	57
Moore	25⅞	25⅞
Morgan	48⅛	48⅞
Motorola	57	56⅞
Nat Medical	44⅛	45⅝
Natl Semi	6⅝	6⅛
Natl Service	28⅝	27⅝
Navistar	3⅞	3⅞
NCNB	31⅞	31⅞
NCR	89⅝	89⅞
NED Bncp	39⅞	39
Newmnt Min	37⅞	35⅝
Niagr Mhwk	13⅞	14⅝
Nike	50⅞	47⅞
NL Industrs	10⅝	10⅝
Nordstrom	30	29⅞
Norfk Sthn	44⅞	44⅝
Norwest	24⅞	24⅞
Nthn St Pwr	33⅞	33⅞
Nthn Telcm	29⅝	29⅞
NY Times	23⅝	23⅞
Nynex	75	73⅞
Occid Petrl	18⅝	18
Ohio Edi	17⅝	17⅞
Oracle Sys	11	10⅞

	Feb 7 midday	Feb 6 close
Oryx Enrgy	38⅛	37⅞
Pac Ent	41⅞	41⅞
Pac Gas Elec	25⅞	25⅝
Pac Telesis	43⅞	42⅞
Paccar	41⅞	41
Pacificorp	21⅝	21⅞
Pall	45⅝	43
Paramount	45⅞	44
Parker-Hanfin	27⅝	27⅞
Penney	53⅝	54⅛
Pennzoil	69⅞	68⅞
Pepsico	30⅞	30⅞
Pfizer	94⅝	92⅞
Phlps Pet	27⅞	27⅛
Phlda Elec	19⅞	19
Phlp Morris	59⅞	59
Phlps Dodge	64⅞	64⅞
Ptney Bow	47⅞	48⅛
Plcr Dome	14⅞	14⅞
PNC Fncl	27⅞	27
Pnndle Estn	14⅛	13⅝
Polaroid	26	26⅛
PPG Inds	52⅛	52⅞
Prctr Gmble	83	82⅞
Price	46	45⅛
Primerica	28⅛	28⅞
Pub Service	26⅛	26⅞
Quaker Oats	52⅞	52⅞
Ralston Pur	98	95⅞
Raychem	27	27
Raytheon	78	78
Reebok	17	16⅛
Roadway	47⅞	46⅞
Rockwell	28⅛	29
Rohm Haas	42⅞	40
Royal Dutch	80	78⅛
Rubbermaid	45⅝	44
Rynlds Mt	64⅛	64⅛
Safeco	40⅛	39⅞
Salomon	26⅛	25⅞
Sant Fe Pac	7⅞	7⅞
Sara Lee	34⅞	34⅞
Schecorp	37⅞	37⅞
Schlumbgr	60	59⅛
Schrg-Plgh	45⅞	45⅞
Scott Papr	43⅞	43⅞
Seagram	91⅞	90
Sears Rbk	29⅞	29⅛
Secrty Pac	25	23⅞
Shrwn-Wlms	43⅞	43⅛
Skyline	17⅞	16⅛
Snap-on Tls	32⅞	31⅞
Southern	27	26⅞
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Stanley Wk	35⅞	32⅞
Stone Cntr	15⅞	15⅞
Sun Co	31⅛	31⅞
Suntor Bk	25⅛	25⅞
Super Valu	26⅛	25⅛
SW Bell	56	54⅞
Syntex	67⅝	67⅞
Sysco	36⅝	36⅞
Tandem	15	14⅞
Tandy	32⅞	31
Tele-comm	16	16⅝
Teledyne	20⅞	20⅛
Temple-In	38⅛	36⅛
Tenneco	50⅞	49⅞
Texaco	61⅝	60⅝
Texas Inst	40⅞	39⅞
Texas Util	37⅞	36⅛
Textron	30⅞	30⅞
Time Wrnr	99⅝	100⅝
Times Mirr	31⅞	31
Timken	26⅝	26
Torchmark	53⅝	52⅛
Toys R Us	28⅛	28⅞
Transam	34	33⅝
Travelers	20⅞	21⅛
Tribune	43⅛	44
TRW	42	40⅛
Tyco Lab	46⅞	44⅞
UAL	136⅞	136⅞
Un Camp	40⅝	40⅞
Un Carbide	19	18⅛
Un Pacific	77⅞	76
Unilever	89⅞	88⅝
Unisys	2⅞	2⅛
Unocal	27	27
Upjohn	41⅞	40⅞
US West	36⅝	38⅞
Usair Gp	21	21⅞
USF&G	10⅝	10⅝
UST	41⅞	41⅛
USX	30⅞	30⅞
Utd Tech	50	49⅞
Utd Telcm	25⅞	25
VF	23⅞	23⅝
Wal-Mart	36⅛	35⅞
Walgreen	31⅞	30⅞
Waste Mgmt	42⅞	41⅛
Wells Fargo	72⅞	69⅞
Westg Elec	28⅝	28⅝
Weyerhsr	24⅞	24⅞
Whirlpool	24⅞	24⅞
Whitman	22⅝	22
Winn-Dixie	41	39⅝
Woolworth	32⅝	32
Wrigley	58⅞	56
Wrner-Lamb	74	72⅞
Xerox	50⅞	49⅞

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First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
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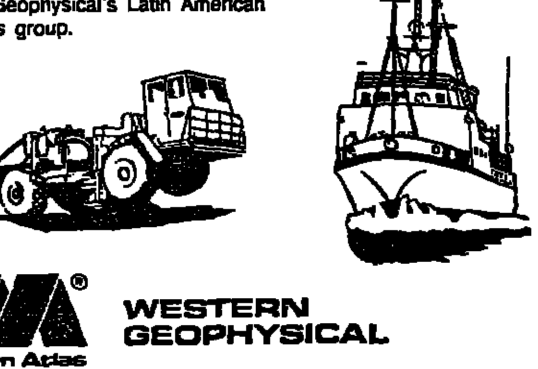

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Full directives for application can be obtained at the University at the above mentioned address. Inquiries about the position can be made to Prof Jan F Bjørnstad, The University of Tromsø, PO Box 953, N-9001, TROMSØ, NORWAY.
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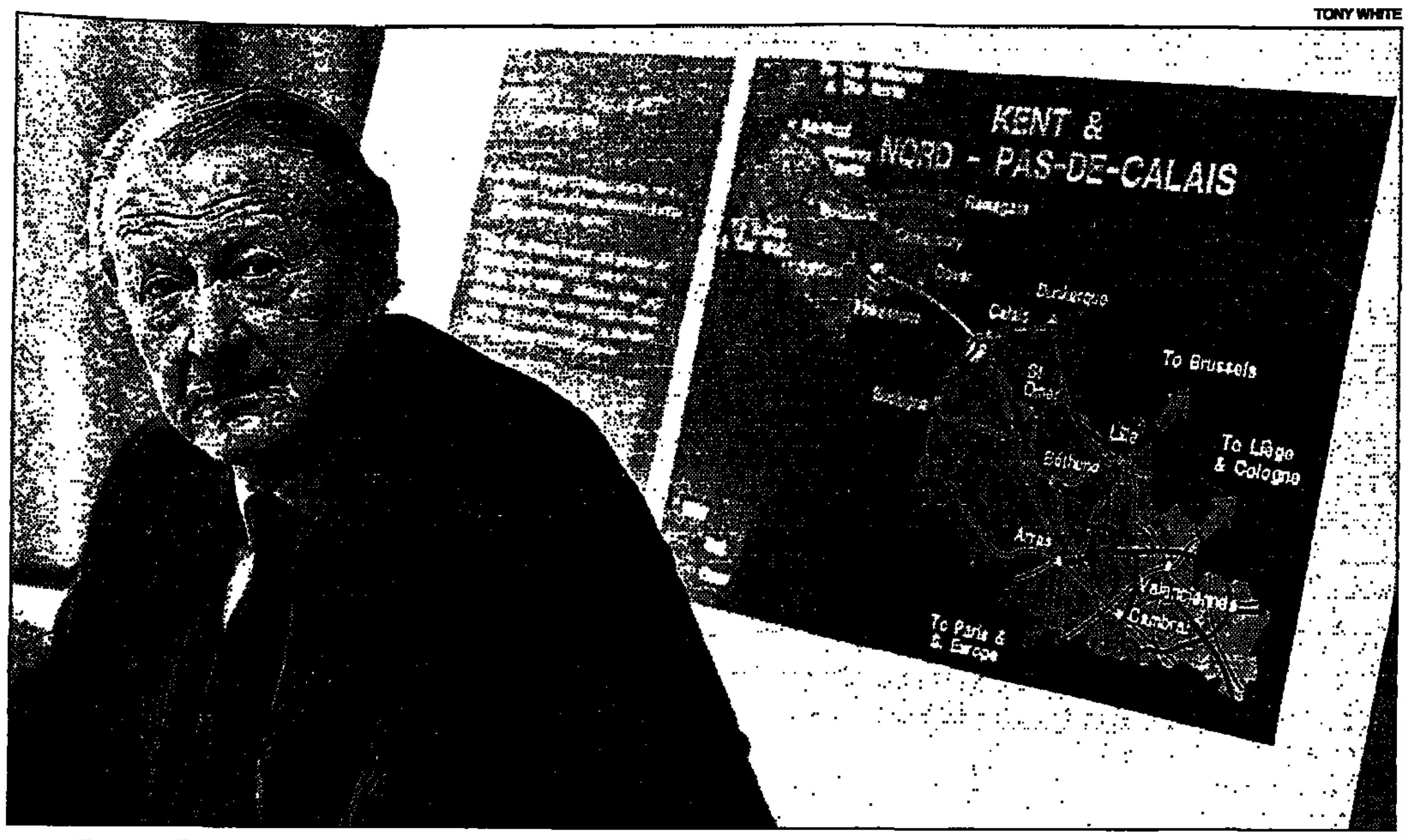

European dimension: Tony Hart with a map showing the "unique" link his council has created with Nord-Pas-de-Calais in northern France

Kent puts Calais on the map

The European Commission is showering the county with grants for its continental initiatives. Bill Cater reports

The days have gone when county councillors' interest stopped at their county boundary; but even modern councils are surprised — and perhaps a mite envious — at Kent's links with the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region, which faces the county across the Channel. These links were formalised last year to produce the *Région Transmanche*, made up of Kent's 1.5 million people and 4.5 *million in France.*

The ties between them have already produced joint programmes for economic development, vocational training, tourism and new technologies, and considerable financial benefits. The Transmanche Euroregion is not like those twin-town arrangements suspected by local voters to be merely an excuse for civic dinners for dignitaries. Euroregions which cross a frontier are eligible for multi-million pound European Community grants.

The EC had never before had to consider a frontier region whose two parts were separated by anything wider than a river, but at county hall in Maidstone the European team worked with its opposite numbers in the regional council of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais to put a trans-frontier development programme to the EC, and won their regional status.

The idea that close links with Europe can bring prosperity to the county is shared by Kent councillors of various political colours, and by officials, in spite of some problems with voters, who see Europe only in the painful context of Channel Tunnel disruption and the Nimby — "Not In My Back Yard" — attitude to the tunnel's rail links.

Tony Hart, the leader of Kent County Council, says: "We are the only county with a European dimension, officially recognised by the EC. We've seen Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, two or three times and he is very supportive. I'm trying now to put a much bigger organisation together: Kent, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Flanders, and Wallonia; and Brussels wants to get into it as well.

"We want a northern association to be some effective opposition to what is going on *in the south of Europe, where* they are getting together to influence the 1993 cash allocations in Brussels. We have got to do the same if we are to get our fair share."

With less than total respect to national governments, Britain's included, Mr Hart describes how a border regional authority should go about getting money out of the EC.

"We, with Nord-Pas-de-Calais, don't allow our governments to tell us what to do; we work out what we want to do, prepare our scheme, then we rewrite it so it sounds right to politicians in London. They rewrite it so it sounds right to politicians in Paris. People in other border regions just let their governments put schemes up, and that is not what the European Commission wants."

Learning the ropes of European negotiation has paid off for Kent. "In 1986," Mr Hart says, *"we got just £40,000 out* of Europe. Since then we have totted up between £24 million and £30 million, because we know our way round; we put up a scheme and deliver the goods. Brussels knows that if it gives us the money it will get what it pays for. We have an office there, actually opposite the European Commission, and we already act on behalf of other southern counties which don't have the resources."

To those who fear that cooperation across the Channel will diminish Kent's ability to get its fair share of new industry and commerce, Mr Hart says: "I don't believe the people of Kent generally want vast amounts of development. We are going to prosper by keeping some industry at bay. Otherwise we shall destroy our heritage; terrible for the people of Kent and counterproductive in the long run.

"We have a difficult balancing act. We need industry and commerce in the east of Kent, where the unemployment problems are, and in the riverside strip where old industries like cement, threat*ened with cheap supplies* from Greece and elsewhere in Europe, and heavy engineering, are all in decline. But I would be hung, drawn and quartered if I plastered west Kent with more industry."

What his county wants, Mr Hart says, is high-tech industry and business — such as those being attracted to a county development on the old West Malling aerodrome.

Developments of this kind demand the best-educated workforce. Symbolically, Kent's economic development board has been incorporated into the county's training and enterprise council. This operates under a performance contract with the government, linking about 100 public and private sector bodies concerned with business development in the county, and responsible for promoting investment in training.

County-wide schemes tend to be supported by all the political parties. Kent's MPs are Conservatives, but local authorities are politically more evenly divided. Some Conservative town councillors have found themselves accused, by more rigid supporters, of interventionism, if not creeping socialism, in their efforts to boost tourism or industry.

Parks mean business

KENT has been developing six business parks, each of more than 100 acres, including the 640 acres at Kingshill, West Malling, one of the largest business parks in Europe *(writes Rodney Hobson).*

Tony Hart, the leader of Kent council, says: "We are developing what will be the finest science/industry park in northern Europe at West Malling. The kind of activity we want there, high-tech and *financial* services, will, we hope, attract the people now in those occupations in London who have to commute.

"We are not having warehousing on it, not having supermarkets, just high-tech places with one or two small shops. I'm sick of seeing industrial estates with awful buildings.

"We've put together a package which involves Penn state university, Thames poly, Kent university and ourselves, and we are also going to put in an education unit which will offer business-related degrees."

Another academically blessed science park, called Eureka, is to go up at Ashford, about 30 miles to the south-east and close to the Channel Tunnel M20 link.

Chatham maritime park covers 350 acres on the site of the old naval dockyard, including six acres with enterprise zone status. On the eastern side a dock basin has been converted into a commercial port.

The other large parks are the 165-acre Kent International Business Park at Thanet, the 150-acre Crossways park near Dartford, and Orbital park, close to the M20 at Ashford, which is due for completion in 1993.

County gears up for jobs in the pipeline

European companies are establishing British bases as they prepare an attack on our markets, Rodney Hobson writes

The Kent training and enterprise council (TEC) claims to be unique among the 82 TECs set up around the country. It has absorbed the existing Kent Economic Development Board (KEDB) so that companies coming to Kent have trained workforces on tap.

As the nearest part of the UK to continental Europe, Kent *is attractive to overseas* companies seeking to establish a British base in the run-up to 1992.

For the past six years, the KEDB had been responsible for promoting Kent as a business location, helping to boost the number of foreign firms with operations in the county to more than 130.

In November, the TEC, based at Chatham, took over. The aim is to maintain the inflow of investment and simultaneously to match employers' training needs to *supply*.

To get the equation right, Kent TEC launched an extensive consultation programme in the months before it took up its duties, mailing a brochure and questionnaire to almost 20,000 Kent companies, individuals and organisations. Directors and staff held ten open days in major towns in the county and more than 750 organisations were invited to attend consultation meetings with specialist groups.

John Forsdyke, the chief executive of Kent *TEC*, says: "The consultation period was invaluable. We had 18,000 people giving us a wide cross-section of views.

"The integration of the development board has gone very quickly, and having the leader and chief executive of the county council on the board makes for a good working relationship."

Tunnel vision: Alastair Morton wants infrastructure

Having the TEC as an umbrella organisation is important, given that there are about 70 public and private sector bodies in the county carrying out work on business development.

Mr Forsdyke says: "It does make it difficult to have so many agencies. We have got the major players round the table and started to sort out our objectives with bodies such as enterprise agencies and chambers of commerce."

The TEC is giving high priority to examining overlaps and duplication in order to focus and co-ordinate future activities. These will include business advice and consultancy, international trade development and financial support schemes.

Mr Forsdyke believes three sectors of the economy need special attention. He believes the county will require new skills in tourism, with emphasis on hotels and catering; financial services will need more clerical staff despite the current national economic downturn; and technical skills should be encouraged in mechanical engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and printing.

The call for a skilled workforce is underlined by the fact that Kent will have 15,000 fewer youngsters aged 16-24 by 1994, a drop of about 21 per cent. Mr Forsdyke admits: "It will make a difficult picture for recruitment. Despite the current unemployment levels, the underlying population problem remains."

Alastair Morton, the co-chairman of Eurotunnel and Kent TEC chairman, says: "Kent is suddenly being transformed, and can end up either as a pipe between the rest of Britain and continental Europe, or a gearbox.

"A pipe is empty and used *for passing matter* through as quickly as possible with as little friction as possible. A gearbox is something that transforms and is a source of energy or a means of transmitting energy.

"We must get the infrastructure right in Kent in the mid Nineties."

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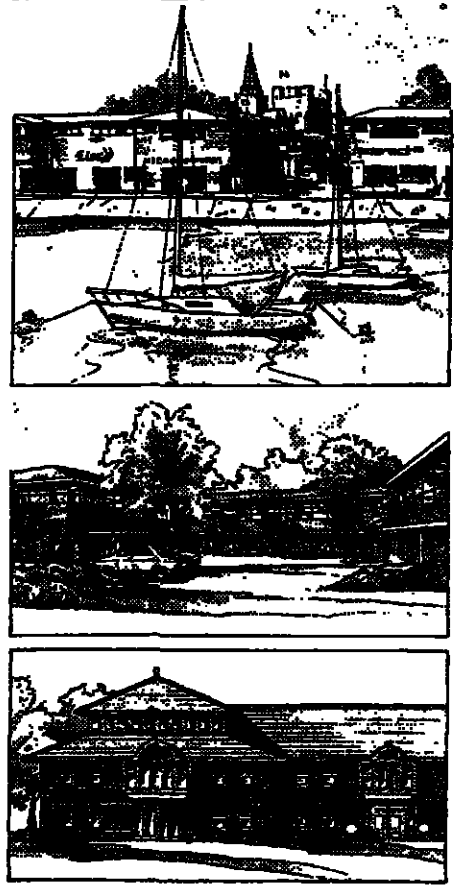

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Cob-nuts: John Cannon (left) and David Butterworth reviving an old trade

Growing low for high profits

The garden of England is using modern techniques to squeeze more productivity out of its ancient orchards, Bill Cater writes

Few advertising men set about promoting Kent without calling it the "garden of England". Not least of the county's attractions is its beauty; orchard, hop garden and meadow, downland and woodland, field and river, sea-coast and prosperous old villages make it a good place to live and work.

If Kent is still a garden, and flourishing, it is because many Kent farmers are horticulturists, gardeners on a large scale. The most prosperous — some say the only paying — form of farming today is horticulture. It keeps average farm incomes above the disaster level of other counties, though prosperity, along with soil quality, favours east against west Kent.

Prosperity has been achieved by advances in productivity. Diversification is likely to make Kent more of a garden than ever, with the blue of flax flowers, the brightness of evening primrose, and perhaps sunflowers as well, replacing some overproduced cereals or sheep-crowded meadows now their boom days are over.

These flowers, grown to meet the demand for oils, of which — barring the olive-oil lake — there is no European surplus, could be prosperity for the future. Meanwhile, Kent's blossom comes from its orchards. Kent produces about 60 per cent of Britain's home-grown apples and pears, and is doing so on less land with less labour than before. A few years ago apple trees would have been planted at about 400 to the acre. Today an apple grower will expect to plant 1,200 to the acre. On experimental acres 4,000 apple trees are thriving, and in at least one orchard 10,000 trees to the acre have been planted.

These trees will make younger, smaller but more productive orchards. Where apple trees were once expected to last 40 years, a grower will now expect to replace them after 15, for the best apples come from young trees. Supermarkets, the governing customer, demand nothing but perfect fruit.

The same small-is-beautiful development is affecting cherry and plum orchards. Old-style trees might be 40ft tall; tall trees mean high labour costs. New varieties are half the size, with bigger fruit. A 20ft tree, not yet as small as growers would like, is still easier to prune and pick, and can be netted against birds, its worst enemies. Kent's dwindling stock of cherry trees is picking up again.

Another old-established crop enjoying a revival is the Kent cob-nut. Early in the century there were 7,000 "plats" — nut plantations. Today, 80 commercial growers, almost all in Kent, are expanding acreages. Better marketing ensured there were fresh Kent cobs in every supermarket chain but one last year.

Hop farmers may follow the orchard practice of growing lower for higher profits. Traditionally, the hop vine grows high on expensive, tall poles strung with wires and strings. Because of world over-production, it is 10 years since any reasonable profit has been made on hops, say growers.

> *The supermarkets' dilemma is how to reconcile demand for unblemished fruit with growing green public insistence on unsprayed crops*

Lager, now fashionable, uses only two hops for every three in traditional beer, and brewers now get more flavour and bitterness out of each hop. Many continental lagers are brewed here under licences specifying that German or Czech hops must be used — an odd exception, it seems to Kent growers, to EC rules against national trade prejudices.

Fortunately, German growers are showing interest in British breeds of hop, even selling some trial crops to German brewers, which might overcome hop nationalism.

Scientists at Wye College, in Kent, are developing a hop that is happy to grow only hedge high. Lower hops could cut costs and might be safer from insect pests.

Biological control using insect predators to control hop pests failed when the pest-devourers were found reluctant to climb as high as a traditional hop; lower plants could be safer.

Biological pest control is being used to good effect on soft fruit and tomatoes. The largest glasshouse in Europe, at Graveney in Kent, covers 40 acres and dispatched a million 6kg (13lb) boxes of tomatoes last year — all produced without pesticides; good insects controlled the bad.

David Butterworth, the National Farmers' Union horticultural adviser for the region, sees biological control as the answer to a supermarkets' dilemma; how to reconcile a perceived demand for unblemished fruit with growing "green" public insistence on unsprayed crops.

"Even while the shops' demand for perfect fruit has been putting pressure on for more pesticides, our farmers have managed to reduce their use of sprays to only 12.5 per cent of the recommended rates," he says. "This was initiated by growers — few chemical companies work to reduce demand."

Growers fear, however, that if supermarkets maintain their demand for totally unblemished fruit, they — and the public — could fall victim to less scrupulous overseas growers using sprays banned in Britain. Imported fruit and vegetables are hardly ever tested for these banned sprays, Mr Butterworth says.

The opening of the Channel Tunnel and the dropping of European barriers worries Kent farmers because of the possible spread of animal and plant diseases. "We import a new pest or disease every year from our EC partners," Mr Butterworth says.

Observers believe many small-to-middling farms, mainly in the west of the county, keep going on subsidies — not from the EC but from the pay packets of farmers' wives. Selling old farm outbuildings for conversion to houses has helped save some under-capitalised farms. The converted oast house is ubiquitous.

When middle-sized farms come on the market they are frequently split: the bulk of the land sold to make a neighbouring bigger farm bigger still, the farmhouse sold with a lesser amount of land for hobby farming, odd cottages with an acre or two for Fiona's pony.

'Tatty' Dover polishes its act

Tourists who treat the town simply as a gateway are being tempted to stay

Going after tourism is like selling the family house: accustomed things, comfortable or at least accepted and familiar, suddenly must be looked at with a new eye and the question asked: will strangers like it?

There have been a lot of these painful examinations going on in the potential tourist towns of Kent in the past couple of years; in Dover, for example, which bravely published a report into its own future possibilities and present failings.

The town itself, the report says, must be clean, attractive and inviting, especially for the pedestrian, with good hotels, restaurants, shopping and entertainments.

"Dover currently has a bad image — poor shopping, inadequate coach and car parking, tatty feel to the town, poor standards of catering and below-par accommodation," it says.

Such painful home truths are accepted as necessary if the towns and their surrounding countryside are to make the most of their considerable but under-used assets, a list which starts with items such as more than 50 castles, 78 museums and two zoos.

Kent's holiday towns fell from favour with the coming of cheap flights to guaranteed sunshine abroad, but tourism is still a considerable industry, employing about 75,000 people in the county. The number of visitors is growing — five million according to the latest figures, compared with four million in 1980. In 1988, they spent about £300 million.

Kent's problem is that, to many people, it is a gateway rather than a place to stay. More than half its tourists come from the southeast of Britain. In 1988, Dover port had 15 million passengers, but few of them lingered in Dover. A new anxiety is that, with the opening of the Channel Tunnel, more people still will arrive in Kent only to be whisked straight through the county to the attractions of London, Bath, or Edinburgh — but not Folkestone, Ramsgate, or Herne Bay.

The tunnel, Dover believes, threatens 4,500 to 6,000 jobs in the ports. Another 2,000 jobs may go in the freight forwarding industry as a result of the single European market; and this in a part of the county which had already lost about 2,000 jobs with the end of Kent's coal industry. Dover calculates it needs 8,000 new jobs in the next ten years.

In the longer term, the town needs to attract new industries and business. But in the short term, Dover calculates that tourism could provide 1,500 jobs, at a third of the cost of providing a similar number of jobs in industry.

Dover district council has good cash reserves, and the benefit of a former marketing executive of the British Tourist Authority, John Moir, as the chief executive. The council has invested £14 million in a tourist attraction, the White Cliffs Experience, hiring John Sunderland, the designer of the Jorvik Viking heritage centre at York, to put Dover's history on show in a large, walk-through exhibition.

Included are a reconstructed section of the Victorian port, a Forties street after a raid, a Roman landing, and a Napoleonic wars Martello tower where robots will tell Dover's story of mediaeval days.

Another £8 million is being spent on sprucing up the "tatty" town; cliff-top walks are being set out, and a guide prepared advertising country attractions, from gardens to vineyards and gliding, golf and sea angling.

Along the coast a few miles west is Shepway, a name bestowed by local government reorganisation and one which few visitors are likely to hear on local lips, though they will find Folkestone, the chief town of the district. Shepway is sensibly promoting itself as "the garden coast", including Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh. Folkestone is providing grants to help improve the town centre.

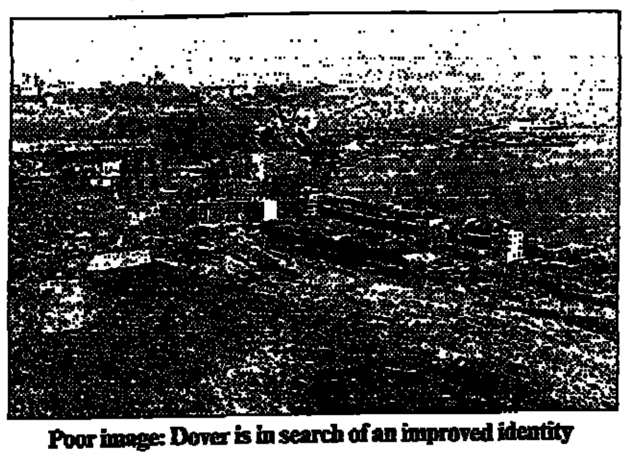
The east Kent coast suffers from other problems. Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Margate are quiet resorts these days; too quiet. When the holidaymakers went away to Spain, the many small hotels were unable to invest to attract other visitors.

The East Kent Tourism Development Action Programme, known as Discover East Kent, is gathering support for programmes to revitalise the area.

Indirectly, the greatest help to the east may be the transforming of the Thanet Way — the A299 from the M2 to the Isle of Thanet — into a dual carriageway.

The old Manston Airport, renamed Kent International, will be within easier reach of London. As a Nato airfield, it was equipped with a long runway suitable for big jets.

BILL CATER



Poor image: Dover is in search of an improved identity

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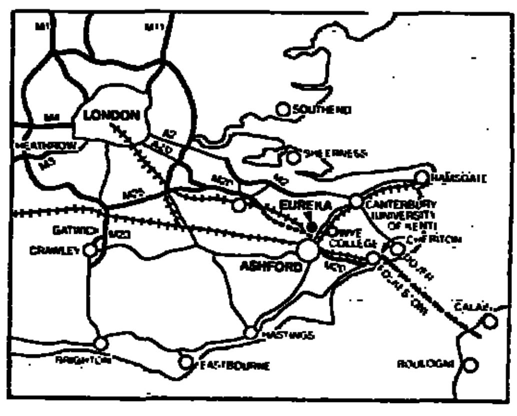

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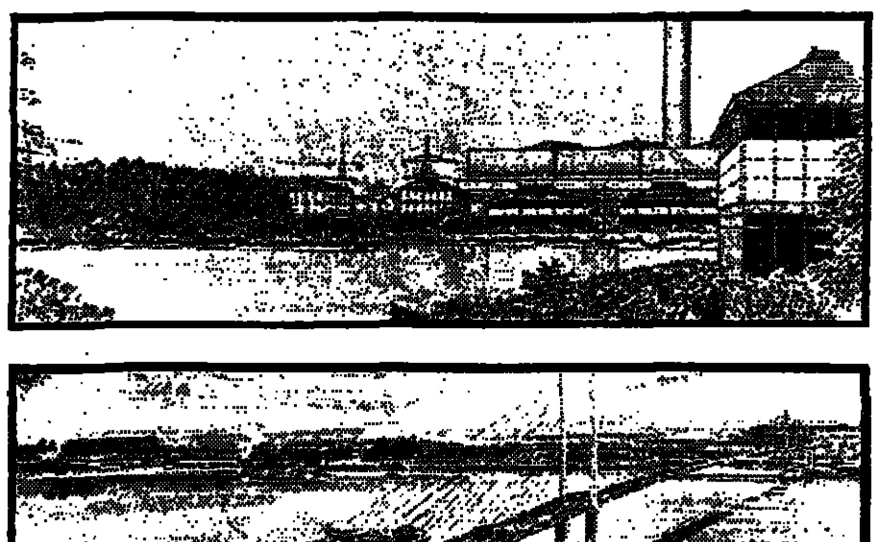

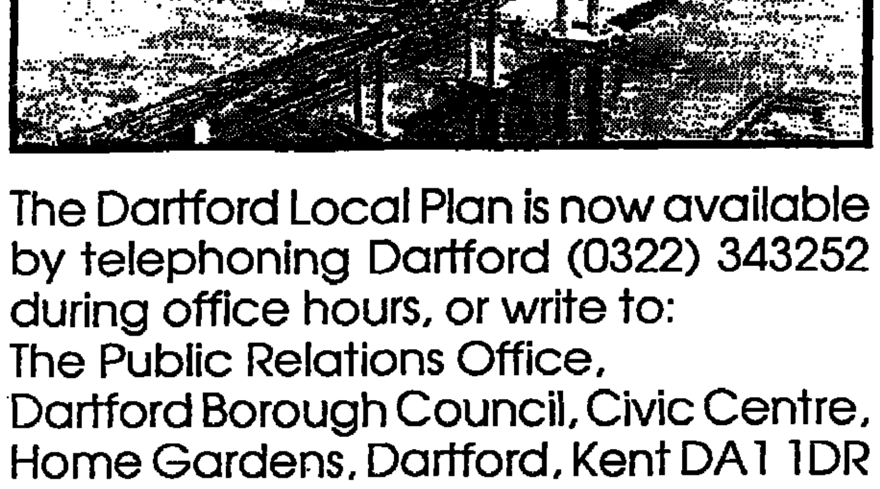

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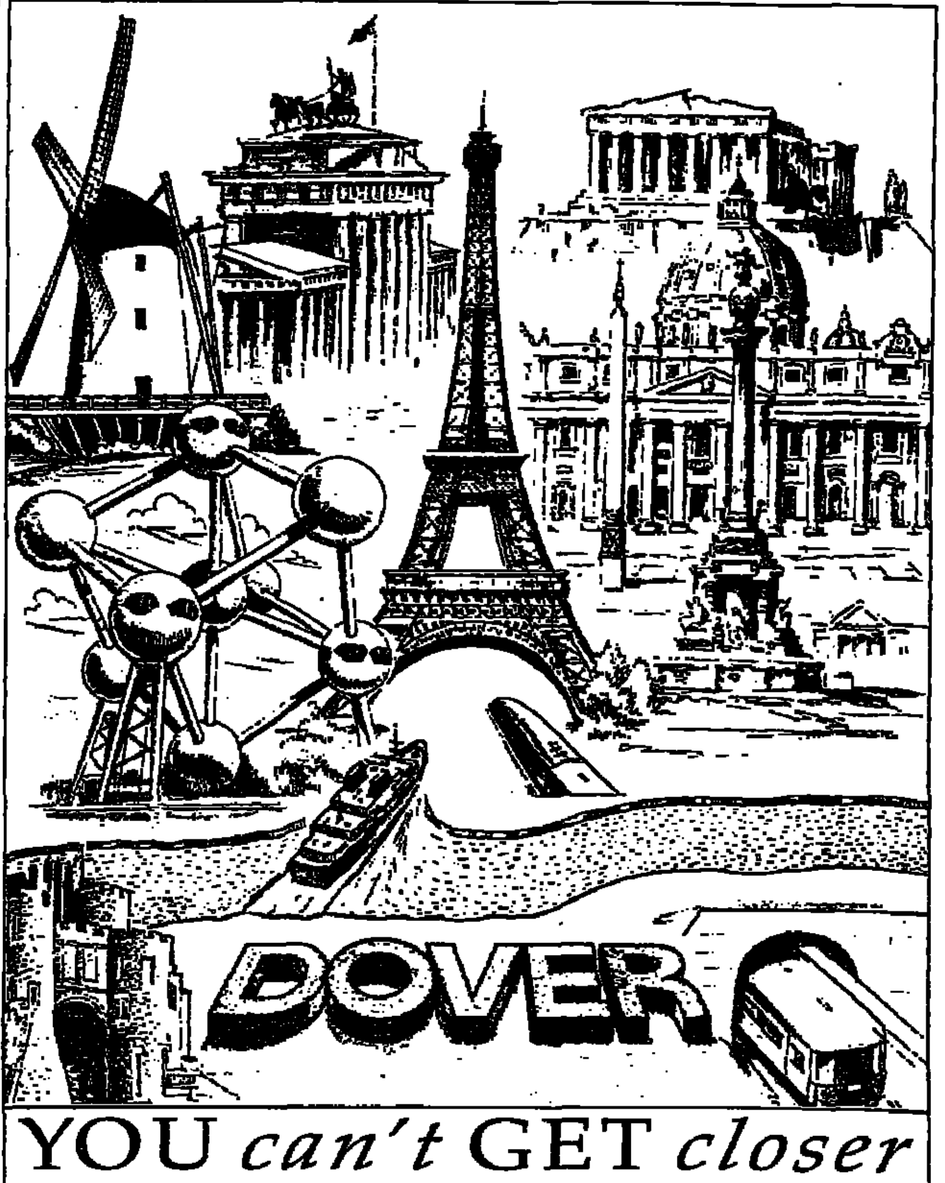

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Service retailers can still shop for a niche on the high street

By RODNEY HOBSON

TOUGH times on the high street have not killed off all opportunities for small shop keepers. Niches still exist and retail premises are available, Corporate Intelligence, the independent retailing research group has found.

The main growth area is in services rather than physical goods. There are 237,000 shops providing services in Britain, compared with 345,000 selling goods. Would-be retailers could try film processing.

Despite rapid growth, there is still only one specialist shop for every 20,000 people. A British Telecom franchise could also be worthwhile. BT has just one shop per million of the population.

In hard times, pawnbroking offers possibilities, and there are only 600 in Britain. For those with manual skills, there may also be room for more picture frame shops and tool hire outlets.

High on the danger list are estate and travel agencies, which have been badly affected by the shakeout. Another species in decline is the bookmaker. Corporate Intelligence estimates that the number of betting shops has fallen 17 per cent to 10,000 over the past ten years.

Robert Clark, of Corporate Intelligence, said: "These, along with casualties among traditional goods retailers, explain the current phenomenon of empty and shuttered shops in most high streets while other units have been occupied on short lets."

Fast growing areas where the competition is tough include video rental shops. Virtually non-existent in 1980, there are now about 5,000 and a further 10,000 outlets operate within shops providing other services.

Employment agencies are also booming, with 17,000 offices — more than double the 6,750 that existed ten years ago. Overcrowded sectors include hairdressing and beauty salons and fast food shops. There are 35,000 each of these.

MR FRIDAY

Churchill inspires pizza maker

By DAVID THURLOW

Forties flavour: Lorraine Rathbone, with some of the memorabilia at her Pizza restaurant

THE first time that Lorraine Rathbone remembers hearing of Sir Winston Churchill was when her mother burst into tears at the news of his death. She was too young to remember his exploits but his life is now making her a good living.

Mrs Rathbone is using his name, the Forties memorabilia and the music of the war and early postwar days to create the atmosphere for her pizza restaurants in the Northwest. The mix of nostalgia and modern fast food works.

Mrs Rathbone was a trainee magistrates court clerk at Southport when she married Tom Rathbone of the Rathbone bakery family, based in Wigan. The business, employing 700 people, stretches from Stoke-on-Trent to the Lake District and also owns the 16th century informal country house hotel, the Holland Hall at Up Holland, Lancashire. There, Mrs Rathbone learned the hotel business the hard way.

The hotel attracted good business, being "a little dot in the middle of all the business centres around, three minutes from the M6 and 30 minutes from Manchester, Liverpool, Preston, Warrington and Skelmersdale."

It was ripe for expansion. She wanted something different in bar food, away from the much more upmarket hotel restaurant. Her plan was for something individual with good quality but inexpensive food, a local staff where standards could be monitored easily and with its own training scheme. At that time, the end of 1983, pizzas had not reached the Northwest like the South. That fact that attracted her, but she wanted to get away from the Italian/American bright lights and chrome and have something of her own.

She said: "What I was looking for was a very atmospheric place with candles, music, excellent service and food at a reasonable cost. I also wanted something on the walls to which people could relate.

"The name Churchill had come up when we were renaming our hotel restaurant but we picked something French. I thought of it again when planning a pizza restaurant. He was no hero of mine because I was far too young. My first memory of him is my mother crying when he died. But the idea appealed to me. I wanted to have a strong British feeling in the atmosphere because people normally think of pizzas as Italian."

Mrs Rathbone decided that if it was going to be called Winstons, then it should reflect the man. She went to the Imperial War Museum and spent time in the archives learning about him and collecting items to line the wall of the restaurant. She has continued doing this since the first restaurant opened. She spent £40,000 on the fittings and furnishings for the restaurant. She took on a chef and 20 staff, most of whom were part time. It was an immediate success and after nine months had made £30,000 profit.

Mrs Rathbone opened the second one in Preston and now has a chain of five over the north west in St Annes, Preston, Leigh and Chester as well as Up Holland. All but Leigh have 130 places and the company employs nearly 200, mainly part time. Almost all are making a good profit — nearly 10 per cent on a £2 million turnover.

BRIEFINGS

☐ BUSINESSES hit by price increases from suppliers should haggle, according to research by Winkler Marketing, based in Brighton. The company says that in sectors that are still buoyant, suppliers are trying to recoup the fall in demand by raising prices. However, in price sensitive areas, suppliers may offer discounts and special deals, says Winkler.

☐ THE Cleaning and Support Services Association is producing a manual to help its small business members with practical management advice. The first three sections, now available, cover employee and industrial relations, training and media relations. The manual will be continually updated and is free to members. For non-members, there is a single payment of £25. Contact: John Hall, Suite 73/74, The Hop Exchange, 24 Southwark Street, London SE1.

☐ MORE and larger awards will be made to small innovative companies winning the Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Technology from the Department of Trade and Industry. The number of Smart awards rises from 150 to 180 this year, with the maximum prize increasing to £45,000 for feasibility studies and to £60,000 for product development.

☐ TWO evening seminars on financial law will be held this month at the City of London Polytechnic. European financial services is the topic on Tuesday and reinsurance law on Tuesday February 26. Fees are £90 per seminar. Contact: Susan Wharton. 071-283 1030.

☐ INSURANCE to fund legal actions against companies that fail to pay their accounts is available from Royal Insurance. The policy covers up to 100 actions a year costing up to £40,000 each.

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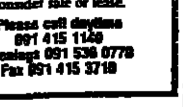

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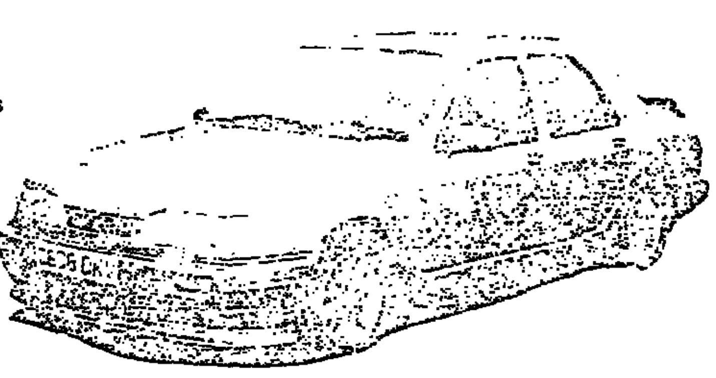

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850i

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Car that caused a marriage breakdown

For 21 years they were the perfect match. Now the Japanese giant and its British dealer are fighting in court, **Kevin Eason** writes

The story reads like the script for a blockbuster television series. One of Britain's most remarkable entrepreneurs is preparing to do battle across the courtroom with the might of Japanese big business.

They are arguing over a financial compensation settlement with enough noughts to make up a telephone number, as well as determining the future of one of the country's biggest networks of car dealers.

On one side is Nissan Motor Manufacturing, the company that has invested £700 million in a factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear, employing almost 3,000 people and aiming to become the fourth biggest British motor manufacturer behind Rover, Ford and Vauxhall.

On the other is Octav Botnar, the reclusive millionaire and the man who, 21 years ago, gambled that Japanese cars could be a serious alternative to the then dominant European marques by importing Datsuns, now better known as Nissans.

He set up Nissan UK with what he says was an exclusive distribution deal and in his first year he sold only 1,200 cars. His faith in the Japanese runabouts was repaid by customers who flocked to cars that had little glamour but were reliable, unlike many of their British rivals of the time.

Now Japanese cars are accepted as technological leaders and Nissan UK has grown into an established dealer chain, employing 12,000 workers directly or indirectly. Last year's sales were more than 106,000 cars.

Both Nissan UK and Nissan Motor confirmed yesterday, however, that it will be "business as usual" whatever the outcome of their legal wrangle. Customers are being assured that all warranties are safe and supplies of cars will be guaranteed. They may, however, have to move to a new dealership if their old showroom moves over to another brand.

In the middle of this business war are the 380 dealers, who have spent £250 million upgrading their showrooms with no idea whether they will still be selling Nissans this time next year, and tens of thousands of Nissan owners and potential buyers who must be wondering what on earth is happening.

Nissan Motor says: "There will be no problems at all for Nissan customers. All warranties remain valid and we will still be selling cars as normal. Nobody should be concerned about the future of Nissan, which has invested millions of pounds in Britain."

Although most buyers will not have realised it, they collected their cars from Nissan UK, which buys cars from Nissan, the manufacturer, whether they are from Japan or the British factory, and then passes them on to the dealer network.

TED DITCHBURN

Irreconcilable differences: the price of the new British-built Primera was the sticking point between Nissan and Octav Botnar (above)

For more than two decades the arrangement operated, but it became an uneasy alliance and finally broke down at the end of last year when the two sides could not agree on prices for the new Primera. The company hoped that this car, built at Washington as the vital follow-up to the Bluebird model, would establish Nissan in Europe.

Mr Botnar's Nissan UK said the car was too expensive against such rivals as the Vauxhall Cavalier and Ford Sierra. The factory said the price was right, as the Primera was a new model with high-value specifications, which made it a technological leader.

The growing acrimony between the two sides became apparent to those who looked on. The press launch for the Primera was close to confusion as both companies issued invitations for the same event and both had their own press releases.

Signs of the split were more obvious when Mr Botnar gave a party at the Savoy in London to celebrate 21 years of Nissan UK. Nobody from the factory or main Nissan Motor business was there.

Mr Botnar finally confirmed that the relationship was over last week, when he started legal action to sue Nissan Motor for ending the distribution agreement. The figure for which he is suing is not known but estimates put it at hundreds of millions of pounds.

Existing dealers have been panic-stricken by events, not knowing what their future holds, and the argument has affected sales of the Primera. Only 2,500 out of 6,700 ordered in the last quarter of 1990 were sold, although that position improved last month when about 1,000 Primeras left the showrooms.

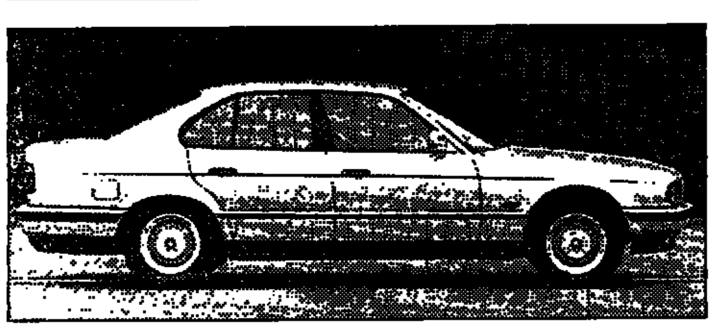
One question, nevertheless, will have to be asked. How will Nissan manage to replace Mr Botnar's vast network of dealers?

Nissan Motor is confident, saying it has had enormous interest from dealers wanting to take on its franchise. Britain also accounts for about a fifth of all European sales, which means Nissan has a huge dependence on what happens in the UK market.

As output from Washington is growing gradually, Nissan Motor will be eager to settle its dispute with Mr Botnar to smooth the path to fulfilling its ambitions as an important European-based manufacturing and sales operation.

His master's choice but not the wife's

ROADTEST



Quality, but rear tight squeeze: the BMW 525iSE, at £24,200

THE badge of the BMW has long been synonymous with the image of the fast, high-quality, motorway cruiser beloved of businessmen and usually envied by the lesser mortals who can only watch it purring past.

The third generation 5-series range, launched in 1988, maintains the tradition, winning a hatful of accolades but, more significantly, scoring success in the most telling contest of sales.

In spite of competition from rival companies such as Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz, Saab, Volvo and Rover, more than 500,000 of the new 5-series have been sold in the past two years throughout Europe.

The sales pace shows no sign of slackening as the 5-series leaves an indelible print on the minds of middle managers, who make the BMW the marque to which they aspire.

Take the BMW 525iSE and the reasons immediately become apparent. This is a car with a heart that can offer cruiserweight 192 brake horsepower for easy motorway driving. In five-speed auto gearbox form, the 24-valve, 2.5-litre has a top speed of 140mph, leaving plenty of power in reserve for overtaking.

Inside, there are pros and cons, which mean potential buyers should take a test drive before deciding.

For example, power steering is light and accurate at any speed, particularly for the arm-contorting problem of parking, when a dexterous touch can be vital. The boot is cavernous and has a low lip, which makes loading everything from a baby buggy to the weekly shopping extremely easy.

However, the passenger cabin is definitely a problem of "them and us". There is plenty of room for front passengers but little leg room in the rear. Those with children will have to weigh up the benefits of a 5-series carefully, as the rear belts seemed reluctant to hold a child seat firmly enough for peace of mind, and mothers sitting in the back may find it cramped.

By contrast, the driving position is excellent, even for somebody with my 6ft 4in length.

I found the dashboard instruments confusing. The ventilation, heating and stereo buttons created a crowded maze, leading to fumbling fingers on the move.

Quality, however, is beyond reproach. The doors close with the reassuring clunk that makes BMWs such sought-after models.

BMW 525iSE ESSENTIALS

Price: £24,200. Extras include auto gearbox £1,315, metallic paint £472, on-board computer £379, electric front seat adjustment £926, and headlight wash £310.

Engine: 24-valve, six-cylinder, 2.5-litre, for 192 bhp, through auto or manual gearbox.

Performance: 0 to 60mph in 9.9 seconds, top speed 140mph, fuel economy 20.2 mpg around town.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN

Crash capital's peril for drivers

ROADWISE

DRIVERS in London have a one-in-50 chance of having an accident that will force them into hospital, according to research by The Insurance Service, the insurance company. London accidents killed 460 motorists and injured 52,319 in 1989, giving an accident risk of 2 per cent, compared with the national average of 1.41 per cent. Other "high risk" areas are Surrey (1.92 per cent), Cambridgeshire (1.82) and Essex (1.68). Avon is the lowest for accidents, with a 1 per cent rate.

The areas where drivers are most at risk, according to The Insurance Service: 1 Greater London 2 per cent, 2 Surrey 1.92, 3 Cambridgeshire 1.82, 4 Essex 1.68, 5 Norfolk 1.62, 6 Northamptonshire 1.62, 7 Warwickshire 1.61, 8 Humberside 1.60, 9 North Yorkshire 1.58, 10 Nottinghamshire 1.57.

Sales casualty

THE bad news gets worse. Fears for a prolonged Gulf war and recession are forcing down car sales in the United States, where makers such as Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz and BMW have traditionally had good profits. Sales are already down by 22 per cent and analysts predict the market could fall to 1983 levels of 13 million or below.

Pennies well spent

HERE is one guide that frequent travellers may appreciate, because there are no services on the recently opened M40. That has led the AA to advise motorists to "go" before they set out. For those who really do need a toilet or meal break, the *Sunday Times* M40 guide provides a list of places to visit along the 90-mile route between London and the West Midlands. The pamphlet costs £1.25, including postage and packing, from Chiltern House Publishers, Honeywood House, Avon Dassett, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV33 0AH.

Jaguar jump

JAGUAR, now laying off workers and struggling to meet sales targets, is raising prices by an average of 3.4 and 4.5 per cent on some cars. A four-litre XJ6 will cost £27,900, but prices of XJ-S models are unchanged.

Pep for Porsche

PORSCHE, despite its cutback in Britain to cope with the recession, increased profits by 26 per cent and sales by 8 per cent to 31,235 cars in 1990.

Mystery destination?

ARTHUR Large, the RAC's chief executive, who revamped the business to compete with the AA, has resigned. The RAC will not say where he is to work.

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

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House of Lords

Discretion to ban terrorist broadcasts upheld

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Brind and Others

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Roskill, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowry

[Speeches February 7]

The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) (Cmd 8969) was not part of English domestic law and there was no presumption that an administrative discretion had to be exercised in conformity with it. The European doctrine of "proportionality" was equally not part of English law.

While any restriction of the right of freedom of expression could only be justified by an important competing public interest, the Home Secretary had not exceeded his discretion in issuing directives to the BBC and the IBA restricting the broadcasting of television and radio interviews with Irish terrorists.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by Mr Donald Malcolm Brind, Mr Fred Albert Emery, Mr Alexander Graham, Miss Victoria Leonard, Miss Scarlett McGwire, Mr Thomas Edward Nash and Mr John Edward Pilger from the Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice McCowan) (*The Times*, December 7, 1989; [1990] 2 WLR 787), who had dismissed their appeal against the refusal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Roch and Mr Justice Judge) (*The Times* May 30, 1989) of their application for a declaration that the Home Secretary's decision on October 19, 1988, making the directives was *ultra vires* and void and for an order of *certiorari* to quash it.

The applicants other than Mr Nash were broadcast journalists, members of the National Union of Journalists. Mr Nash was employed by the NUJ and relied on broadcasting for the provision of information about current affairs.

Section 29(3) of the Broadcasting Act 1981 provides: "(3) . . . the secretary of state may . . . by notice in writing require the [IBA] to refrain from broadcasting any matter or classes of matter specified in the notice. . ."

Clause 13(4) of the licence and agreement made between the BBC and the Home Secretary dated April 2, 1981, makes similar provision.

The Home Secretary's directives required the BBC and the IBA: "1 . . . to refrain from broadcasting any matter which consists of or includes — any words spoken, whether in the course of an interview or discussion or otherwise, by a person who appears or is heard on the programme in which the matter is broadcast where — (a) the person speaking the words represents or purports to represent an organisation specified in paragraph 2 . . . or (b) the words support or solicit or invite support for such an organisation . . .

"2 The organisations referred to . . . are — (a) any organisation which is for the time being a proscribed organisation for the purposes of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1984 or the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978; and (b) Sinn Fein, Republican Sinn Fein and the Ulster Defence Association."

Paragraph 3 excludes from paragraph 1 words spoken in Parliament or at an election.

By a letter dated October 24, 1988, the Home Secretary further defined and explained the directives as follows:

"[the notice] applies only to direct statements and not to reported speech, and . . . the person caught by [it] is the one whose words are reported and not the reporter or presenter who reports them. Thus the notice permits the showing of a film or still picture of the initiator speaking the words together with a voice-over account of them . . . in paraphrase or verbatim . . . programmes involving the reconstruction of actual events, where actors use the verbatim words which had been spoken in actuality, are similarly permitted."

In the House of Commons on November 2, 1988, the Home Secretary said: ". . . the direct access of men of violence and supporters of violence to television and radio . . . gives those who use it an air and appearance of authority which spreads further outwards the ripple of fear that terrorist acts create in the community. The terrorist act creates the fear and the direct broadcast spreads it. The men of violence and their supporters have used this access with skill." (*Hansard* col 1082)

Mr Anthony Lester, QC and Mr David Pannick for the applicants; Mr John Laws and Mr Robert Jay for the Home Secretary.

LORD BRIDGE said that the appeal had been argued primarily on the basis that the Home Secretary's powers under section 29(3) of the 1981 Act and clause 13(4) of the licence and agreement to impose restrictions on the matters that might be broadcast might only be lawfully exercised in accordance with article 10 of the Convention.

Any exercise of those powers necessarily imposed some restriction on freedom of expression. The obligations of the United Kingdom, as a party to the Convention, were to secure to all the rights that the Convention defined including both the right to freedom of expression under article 10 and the right under article 13 to "an effective remedy before a national authority" for any violation of Convention rights.

It was accepted, of course, by the applicants that, like any other treaty obligations not embodied in the law by statute, the Convention was not part of the domestic law, that the courts accordingly had no power to enforce Convention rights directly and that, if domestic legislation conflicted with the Convention, the courts must nevertheless enforce it.

But it was already well settled that, in construing any domestic provision that was ambiguous in the sense that it was capable of a meaning that either conformed to or conflicted with the Convention, the courts would presume that Parliament had intended to legislate in conformity, not in conflict.

Hence, it was submitted, when a statute conferred on an administrative authority a discretion capable of being exercised in a way that infringed any basic human right protected by the Convention, it might similarly be presumed that the legislative intention had been that the discretion should be exercised within the limitations that the Convention imposed.

His Lordship had found considerable persuasive force in that submission, but in the end he had been convinced that its logic was flawed.

When confronted with a simple choice between two possible interpretations of some specific statutory provision, the presumption whereby the courts preferred that which avoided conflict between domestic legislation and treaty obligations was a mere canon of construction that involved no importation of international law into the domestic field.

But where Parliament had conferred an administrative discretion on the executive without indicating the precise limits within which it had to be exercised, to presume that it had to be exercised within Convention limits would be to go far beyond the resolution of an ambiguity.

It would be to impute to Parliament an intention not only that the executive should exercise the discretion in conformity with the Convention but also that the domestic courts should enforce that conformity by the importation into domestic administrative law of the text of the Convention and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights in the interpretation and application of it.

If such a presumption were to apply to the statutory discretion under section 29(3), it must also apply to any other statutory discretion exercised by the executive capable of involving an infringement of Convention rights.

When Parliament had been content for so long to leave those who complained that their Convention rights had been infringed to seek their remedy in Strasbourg, it would be surprising suddenly to find that the judiciary had, without Parliament's aid, the means to incorporate the Convention into such an important area of domestic law, and that would be a judicial usurpation of the legislative function.

But that did not mean that the courts were powerless to prevent the exercise by the executive of administrative discretions, even where conferred, as in the instant case, in terms that were on their face unlimited, in a way that infringed fundamental human rights.

Most of the Convention rights, including freedom of expression, were less than absolute and had in some cases to yield to the claims of competing public interests. Thus, article 10(2) spelled out and categorised the competing public interests by reference to which the right to freedom of expression might have to be curtailed.

In deciding whether the Home Secretary could reasonably have imposed the restriction on the broadcasting organisations the court was entitled to start from the premise that any restriction of the right to freedom of expression required to be justified and that nothing less than an important competing public interest would be sufficient.

The primary judgment as to whether the particular public interest justified the restriction fell to the secretary of state to whom Parliament had entrusted the discretion. But the court was entitled to exercise a secondary judgment by asking whether a reasonable secretary of state, on the material before him, could reasonably have made that primary judgment.

In any civilised and law-abiding society the defeat of terrorism was a public interest of the first importance.

That some restriction on the freedom of the terrorist and his supporters to propagate his cause might well be justified in support of that public interest was hardly disputable.

The applicants' real case was that they, in the exercise of their editorial judgment, might and had to be trusted to ensure that the broadcasting media were not so used as to afford any encouragement or support to terrorism and that any interference with that editorial judgment was necessarily an unjustifiable restriction on the right to freedom of expression.

His Lordship could not accept that proposition. The Home Secretary, for reasons made clear in Parliament, had decided that it was necessary to deny to the terrorist and his supporters the opportunity to speak directly to the public through the most influential of all the media of communication and that that justified some interference with editorial freedom.

His Lordship did not see how that judgment could be characterised as unreasonable. What was perhaps surprising was that the restriction was of such limited scope.

There was no restriction on the matter that might be broadcast, only on the manner of its presentation. The viewer might see the terrorist's face and hear his words provided only that they were not spoken in his own voice.

His Lordship well understood the broadcast journalist's complaint that to put him to the trouble of dubbing the voice of the speaker he had interviewed before the television camera was an irritant that the difference in effect between the speaker's voice and the actor's voice hardly justified.

He well understood the political complaint that the restriction might be counter-productive in the sense that the adverse criticism it provoked outweighed any benefit it achieved.

But those complaints fell far short of demonstrating that a reasonable secretary of state could not reasonably have concluded that the restriction was justified by the important public interest of combating terrorism.

His Lordship did not see how reliance on "proportionality" could advance the applicants' case, but he agreed with what Lord Roskill said about the possible future development of the law in that respect.

LORD ROSKILL, agreeing with Lord Bridge, said that the applicants had relied on Lord Diplock's speech in *Council of Civil Service Unions v Minister for the Civil Service* ([1985] AC 374, 410), where after establishing his triple categorisation of the fields in which judicial review might operate he had added:

"That is not to say that further development on a case-by-case basis may not in time add further grounds. I have in mind particularly the possible adoption in future of the principle of 'proportionality' which is recognised in the administrative law of certain of our fellow members of the European Community. . ."

The present was not a case in which the first step towards the adoption of that principle could be taken for the reason that to apply it would be for the court to substitute its own judgment of what had been needed to achieve a particular objective for the judgment of the Home Secretary on whom that duty had been laid by Parliament.

But that was not to exclude the possible future development of the law in that respect, a possibility already canvassed in some academic writings.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that the United Kingdom adhered to the Convention and Her Majesty's Government were satisfied that the laws of the United Kingdom were in conformity with their obligations under it.

In terms of the Convention, as construed by the European Court, a "margin of appreciation" had to be afforded to the Home Secretary to decide whether and in what terms a restriction on freedom of expression was justified. The interference with freedom of expression had to be necessary and proportionate to the damage that the restriction was designed to prevent.

Evidence by the Home Secretary showed that he had taken the Convention into account. The interference with freedom of expression was minimal and the reasons given by the Home Secretary were compelling.

LORD ACKNER, concurring in dismissing the appeal, said that the applicants had been prepared to accept that to stray into the realms of appellate jurisdiction involved the courts in a wrongful usurpation of power.

Yet to invest the proportionality test with a higher status than the *Wednesbury* test ([1948] 1 KB 223)) an enquiry into and decision on the merits could not be avoided.

Unless and until Parliament incorporated the Convention into domestic law, a course that had a strong body of support, there appeared at present to be no basis on which the proportionality doctrine could be followed by the courts of this country.

LORD LOWRY, agreeing in particular with Lord Ackner in dismissing the appeal, said that there was no authority that proportionality as contended for by the applicants was part of the English common law and a great deal the other way.

There could be little room for judges to operate an independent judicial review proportionality doctrine in the space left between the conventional judicial review doctrine and the admittedly forbidden appellate approach.

To introduce an intermediate area of deliberation for the court seemed scarcely practical, quite apart from the other disadvantages of such a course.

Solicitors: Stephens Innocent; Treasury Solicitor.

Court of Appeal

Extension of time despite blunders

Fitzwilliam (Countess) and Others v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Lord Justice Fox

[Judgment February 5]

The Inland Revenue would be granted an extension of time to serve a notice of appeal on taxpayers notwithstanding (i) a deplorable muddle and a series of severe blunders in its appeals office leading to its failure to act within the time limits and (ii) a history of extensive delay before issuing notices of determination against the taxpayers.

The circumstances of the case, involving some £3 million of capital transfer tax, and its public importance made it a proper one for an extension to be allowed but putting the Revenue on terms as to the taxpayers' costs of the appeal.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the taxpayers, the executors and trustees of the late Earl Fitzwilliam, from an order by Mr Registrar Adams granting the Revenue an extension of time in which to serve its notice of appeal against the judgment of Mr Justice Vinelott (*The Times* November 22, 1989; [1990] STC 65) in which he rejected the Revenue's claim for the tax.

Mr Robert Walker, QC for the taxpayers; Mr Christopher McCall, QC and Mr Launcelot Henderson for the Revenue.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said that the time for serving notice of appeal from Mr Justice Vinelott's judgment expired on December 20, 1989.

The Revenue's notice of appeal was received by the taxpayers' solicitors on December 28, it having been effected by post on December 22.

It was not in doubt that the reasons for the delay in the appeals office in Somerset House all represented a deplorable muddle on the side of the Revenue. There was a series of severe blunders.

The Revenue had accepted that it was a lamentable failure. It further accepted that the onus was on it to establish that it was a proper case for an extension of time to be granted: a strong case had to be made out.

The delay before the taxpayers received the notice was four working days, being in the Christmas holiday period. Nothing suggested that the taxpayers had acted to their detriment in consequence of that delay. Although there was serious incompetence as such, the case was not one justifying a refusal of an extension.

But Mr Walker relied on another aspect: the whole background of delay by the Revenue in the matter. Its enquiries into the facts had lasted until 1982. It had then waited two years for the House of Lords decision in *Furniss v Dawson* ([1984] AC 474) and had eventually served notices of determination against the taxpayers in 1986.

Undoubtedly, there was substance in that complaint of delay over an extensive period. But the delay was one where Parliament had not thought fit in the capital transfer tax legislation to impose any time limits. Further, the case was of public importance. If the taxpayers' case was correct they had lawfully avoided some £3 million of tax by means of transactions that were artificial.

Looking at the whole matter and the facts of the delay, the case was a proper one to grant the extension of time.

Solicitors: Curry & Co; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Magistrate erred

Regina v Clerkenwell Magistrates Court, Ex parte Bell

A stipendiary magistrate erred in refusing to hear defence evidence during the hearing of a preliminary issue as to abuse of process in the course of committal proceedings.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Tudor Evans) so held on January 30 in allowing an application for judicial review brought by Mr Ernest William Bell against the decision of Mr M. A. Johnstone, Clerkenwell Stipendiary Magistrate, on January 22, 1990 to commit Mr Bell for trial on a charge of theft.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said the defendant had not been charged until nearly two and a half years after the alleged offence.

At the committal proceedings, counsel for the defendant submitted that it was an abuse of process to allow the matter to go ahead as it would no longer be possible to have a fair trial.

The prosecution called a police constable who said the defendant had not been at his last known address. Mr Johnstone refused the request by the defendant's counsel for the defendant to give his version of the events on oath. That refusal was a breach of natural justice and the decision to commit would be quashed.

The prosecution did not seek to sustain the decision of Mr Johnstone but reserved the right to commence fresh committal proceedings. As to that his Lordship would only point out that two and a half years was a very long time.

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Continued from page 15

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Availability of Receiver's Report
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Frazer-Nash Group Limited - company number: 1174688
Frazer-Nash Group Services Limited - company number: 1341878
Frazer-Nash Defence Systems Limited -

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
HOMESURE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN under the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at The New Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5DA on Wednesday February 13, 1991 at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99,100 and 101 of the Act.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AMPTHILL JOINERY LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN under the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at The New Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5DA on Wednesday February 13, 1991 at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99,100 and 101 of the Act.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
RKF GROUP PLC
Registered number: 1768088. Trading name: RKF GROUP PLC. Nature of business: TO PROVIDE MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO SUBSIDIARIES. Trade classification: 23. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 31.01.91. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: NATIONAL WEST-

A rumbling volcano of discontent

The Cricket Council has ostracised Cricket 2000, a company proposing to rejuvenate the game in schools. Ivo Tennant examines the stir created by the Council's move.

ONLY one sporting topic is considered more emotive than the decline of cricket in the schools: the rejuvenation of cricket in the schools. Never dormant for long, it has been given piquancy by the prime minister's support for Cricket 2000, a commercial organisation that this week was rebuffed by the Cricket Council, the governing body of the game.

Cricket at schoolboy level has been fostered by the English Schools Cricket Association (Esca) since 1948. Yet its work has often been negated by a falling away of standards of coaching and facilities in the maintained sector. "The truth is that we are not going to get cricket back into state schools as a major sport," Keith Andrew, the chief executive of the National Cricket Association (NCA), said.

NCA, which oversees the game at amateur level, distributes money that Lord's Taverners raises as a charity. There is much mutual respect. The director of the Taverners, Captain Tony Swainson, feels NCA should govern a co-ordinating body which would include all organisations that raise funds at a national level. "I am thinking of ourselves, the Cricket Council's Foundation, the National Association of Young Cricketers and Esca," he said.

"NCA and Esca would benefit from this. None of us wishes to give up our independence but there is a need to know what we are all doing and to pool our intelligence. If we carry on as competitors we shall do a disservice to cricket."

Swainson's recommendation has been brought on by differences with Cricket 2000, a limited company which aims to stimulate schools cricket by setting up 50 charitable foundations throughout the country over the next three years. The directors, Peter Downey and Eric Russell, a former England batsman, see their role as "reversing a disturbing trend which now sees cricket under serious threat as a school sport".

There is conflict in two regards. Cricket 2000 was the name taken by Lord's Taverners to launch their £250,000 ruby-year appeal. Considerable confusion has arisen, not least among the media. Second, neither NCA nor the Taverners has given its backing to Downey's Cricket 2000, since it operates outside the auspices of the Cricket Council.

"From what we know of it, this is not our scene," Andrew said. "The main thrust of Cricket 2000 is to set up tours abroad, mainly for schools which are already playing cricket. On the other hand, the money Lord's Taverners raises as a charity comes back into the grass-roots of cricket. NCA's privilege is to distribute it to many deserving causes.

"Esca does not need anybody to tell it how to run schools cricket and NCA is here to advise bodies which wish to contribute to the game. We have not supported Cricket 2000 at national level because it does not fit in with our task of working with voluntary organisations. We do not work outside the auspices of the Cricket Council.

"NCA will help whenever and wherever it can by linking schools cricket or any schools cricket development to our club and coaching scene."

Three factors gave the launch of Cricket 2000 immediate credibility. The first was that it was held at the House of Commons, the second that Robert Atkins, minister for sport, gave an introduction. "I did not launch it," he stressed, "but I am in favour of anything that contributes to the game." *Cricket World* said the event was "rich in champagne and smoked salmon but short of any effective mention of plans for cricket coaching and teaching in schools or, most alarming of all, plans for co-operation with NCA or Esca". The prime minister showed his support by attending a dinner in his constituency as president of the Huntingdonshire Foundation.

Cricket 2000 is backed by sponsors, Agatha Christie Ltd and Thomas Cook, plus, it claims, several distinguished politicians and cricketers ranging from Denis Howell and Chris Patten to Colin Cowdrey and Imran Khan. Two individuals, Jeffrey Archer and Tim Rice, have subsequently resigned as founder patrons.

Rice is president of Lord's Taverners, whose differences with Cricket 2000 have stemmed from disagreements over methods and objectives of fund-raising, in addition to both using the same name. "Because we had been going for 40 years I suggested to Downey that he came under our banner," Swainson said. "Downey knew it was imperative to obtain NCA approval, which he has not achieved. To suggest overseas tours will motivate a school to take up cricket is madness."

Swainson believes that Downey and Russell will not be able to obtain charitable status unless they resign as salaried directors.

Downey, a former Liberal candidate for Bath, is applying to the Charity Commissioners for charitable status. This has already been granted to his first Foundation, in Bath, where combined schools teams have made overseas tours. Ten further Foundations are being set up to raise funds through covenants, donations and commercial sponsorship for equipment, facilities and coaching at, in the main, state schools.

"Cricket 2000 is a limited company, but is non-profit making," Downey said. "We make certain we are governed by company law and do not see ourselves as cutting across Esca. The boys who reach the top of our Foundations will be referred to Esca.

"We offer tours and facilities in state schools where needed, which Esca and Lord's Taverners do not. Taverners' grant foundation does not give money for overseas tours. NCA had the opportunity to see what we were doing and to my knowledge it has not taken it up. We will ensure foundations are backed by local communities and plan also to talk to firms who will sponsor facilities at schools.

"We anticipate raising funds through many different avenues for facilities in schools. We believe schools cricket is worthy of support and we do not believe it should be abandoned in state schools.

"While Cricket 2000 is a limited company, the shares in the company are held in trust for the benefit of the charity Cricket 2000 that we have applied to form. Should such a charitable status not be granted, we have entered into a covenant that any profit, dividends or capital gain is held in benefit to be given in equal parts to the foundations set up by us.

"We are keen to obtain the backing of the cricket authorities and look forward to a further review in the near future. The greatest joy we get is when we have a response to our efforts such as happened in Bristol. Following the announcement of our initiative, three young lads from a school that had not played the game for years asked their headmaster: 'Please sir, may we have some cricket?'"

If Downey and Russell succeed in raising the necessary funding to achieve their target of 50 foundations by the end of 1993, their scheme, they say, will benefit 500,000 children in state and independent schools. Whether or not they will be able to do so without the aegis of the Cricket Council, has yet to be resolved.

Groundsman's unnecessary watering could make for a lively start to the first unofficial Test

England A wary of tricks in store from soaked pitch

From RICHARD STREETON IN KANDY, SRI LANKA

A SOAKED pitch for the first unofficial Test match here today left the England A players worried and anxious yesterday as they practised at the Asgiriya stadium. Only three days ago, the square and most of the field resembled a lake after the groundsman left hose pipes running on it throughout a night when seven hours of heavy rain also fell.

It had not previously rained locally for several weeks and Alex Lazarus, the groundsman, admitted that he had been caught out by the unseasonal downpour. The square has dried well since in sunshine and a warm wind, but a great deal of moisture must still remain below the surface. Lazarus predicted that the first hour would be awkward for batting, but after that there should then be plenty of runs before the ball turned on the fourth and fifth days.

Clearly, the toss could be important, though England have not yet decided what they would do should Morris win it. They have named 12 players and either Salisbury, the leg spinner, or one of the seam bowlers will be omitted. Newport joined in the practice after his overnight flight from Australia. England want to see if he has any delayed reaction from his journey.

England remain conscious of the problems they might have against the Sri Lankan spin bowlers. They resisted the temptation, however, to omit Rhodes and play Blakey as a batsman-wicketkeeper. Blakey has not even secured the sixth batting place.

From the start of the tour Blakey has always looked sound and has scored consistently, but Bicknell, as a specialist opening batsman, has been preferred as Morris's partner. It epitomises, perhaps, the constant tightrope that the selectors walk on an A tour between their own immediate needs and the long-term objectives of preparing players for Test matches at senior level.

Without an all-rounder, England were always likely to play only four main bowlers. Keith Fletcher, the team manager, denied that this was a defensive approach and said that Ramprakash's occasional off spin would be regarded as part of the attack. Ramprakash impressed Fletcher at the pre-tour workouts.

There is no rest day in this first Test of a three-match series, but should the pitch prove unreliable, as feared, it could finish prematurely in any case. Sri Lanka omissions are expected to come from Karnain, Premasiri, Wickremasinghe and Gunaratne. Ahangama, who played three Tests against India in 1985-6, and the promising Edirimanne will probably share the new ball, but the main danger for England, of course, will come from the three contrasting spinners, Rajadurai, Anurasiri and Jurangpathy.

ENGLAND (from): H Morris (captain), D J Bicknell, M R Ramprakash, N H Fairbrother, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, S J Rhodes, P J Newport, R K Illingworth, I D K Salisbury, R A Pick, T A Munton.

SRI LANKA A (from): D S B P Kuruppu (captain), D Bulankulama, D Wickramasinghe, H Premasiri, B R Jurangpathy, A de Silva, G Wickremasinghe, B E A Rajadurai, S D Anurasiri, C Edirimanne, S Ahangama, P Wickramasinghe, U Karnain, S Gunaratne.

Ilott replaces the injured Watkin

From RICHARD STREETON

MARK Ilott, aged 20, the relatively unknown Essex left-arm seam bowler, has been summoned to Sri Lanka to join the England A tour. Ilott will replace Watkin, the Glamorgan bowler, who will return home shortly for treatment on his torn side muscle. Newport rejoined the A team yesterday after an overnight flight from Australia and the tour party will be back to full strength when Ilott arrives at the weekend.

Ilott has played only 16 county matches since his first appearance, in 1988, but Trevor Bailey and Keith Fletcher, the A team manager, are among those who consider him as good a prospect as J. K. Lever at the same age. Fletcher said yesterday that Ilott was the ideal player for an A tour: "The right age and he has everything to learn," he said. "He has a good action and lots of heart. He is a bit quicker than 'JK' and got a long way to go, but potentially he could be a better bowler."

Though a case could be argued that more experienced bowlers were available, the England selectors felt that Ilott held several advantages. Among them was that he was both match fit and acclimatised to excessive heat. Since Christmas, he has been playing grade cricket in Adelaide and bowled in the nets to Gooch's England side whenever they were in South Australia.

Ilott's promise was first spotted with Hertfordshire in 1987. Last summer, he played nine times for Essex and took 31 wickets at 33.41 each. Watkin's breakdown is a personal tragedy for a fine tourist, whom Fletcher said had bowled as well as anybody on the tour. He will seek further medical advice but his injury requires rest.

Indian board yet to hear from Pakistan

DELHI (Reuter) – India would like to revive the tour by Pakistan postponed in December because of Hindu-Muslim violence in India, a senior official said yesterday.

But Jagmohan Dalmiya, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said he had heard nothing from Pakistan, despite press reports that Islamabad was interested in a shorter visit. "There has been no communication from Pakistan's cricket authorities since they pulled out of the Asia Cup tournament and the Test series," he said. "I have read Ali Abbasi's Arif [Pakistan board secretary] statements that they were prepared to undertake a short tour of India, but they have taken no concrete steps to revive the tour."

Abbasi said last month that Pakistan had kept the door open to talks with Indian cricket authorities and were prepared to play a short series in southern India before the English season. The original tour was to have included five Tests and five one-day internationals.

Crawley's unbeaten 77 leads youth fightback

NAPIER, New Zealand – England Under-19 played themselves determinedly back into the first youth international against New Zealand Under-19 at McLean Park here yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). By close of play on the third day, they had made 133 for three in their second innings, needing 78 runs to make New Zealand bat again.

England's seam bowlers, Weston, Broadhurst, Chapple and Smith – backed by tidy fielding – limited New Zealand ambitions. The home side resumed on 274 for four, but the England bowlers' perseverance and control was rewarded with five wickets for 32 runs. Only a last-wicket stand of 48, between Sigley and Brown, enabled New Zealand to declare at lunch at 354 for nine, a lead of 210.

England lost Warren for nought, and when Radford went, sparring at a ball from Furlong, they were 43. Smith and Crawley, who was again batting superbly, added 50 for the third wicket, and Crawley and Aftab Habib moved to 77 and 11, respectively, before rain ended play.

On the same ground, in 1963, the fathers of Weston and Furlong played rugby against each other: Mike Weston for England, and Blair Furlong for Hawkes Bay.

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First innings 144.

Second innings

T A Radford c sub b Furlong	17
R J Warren c Furlong b Wilson	0
*J P Crawley not out	77
B F Smith c Nash b Furlong	21
Aftab Habib not out	11
Extras (b 1, lb 4, nb 2)	7
Total (3 wkts)	133

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-43, 3-93.

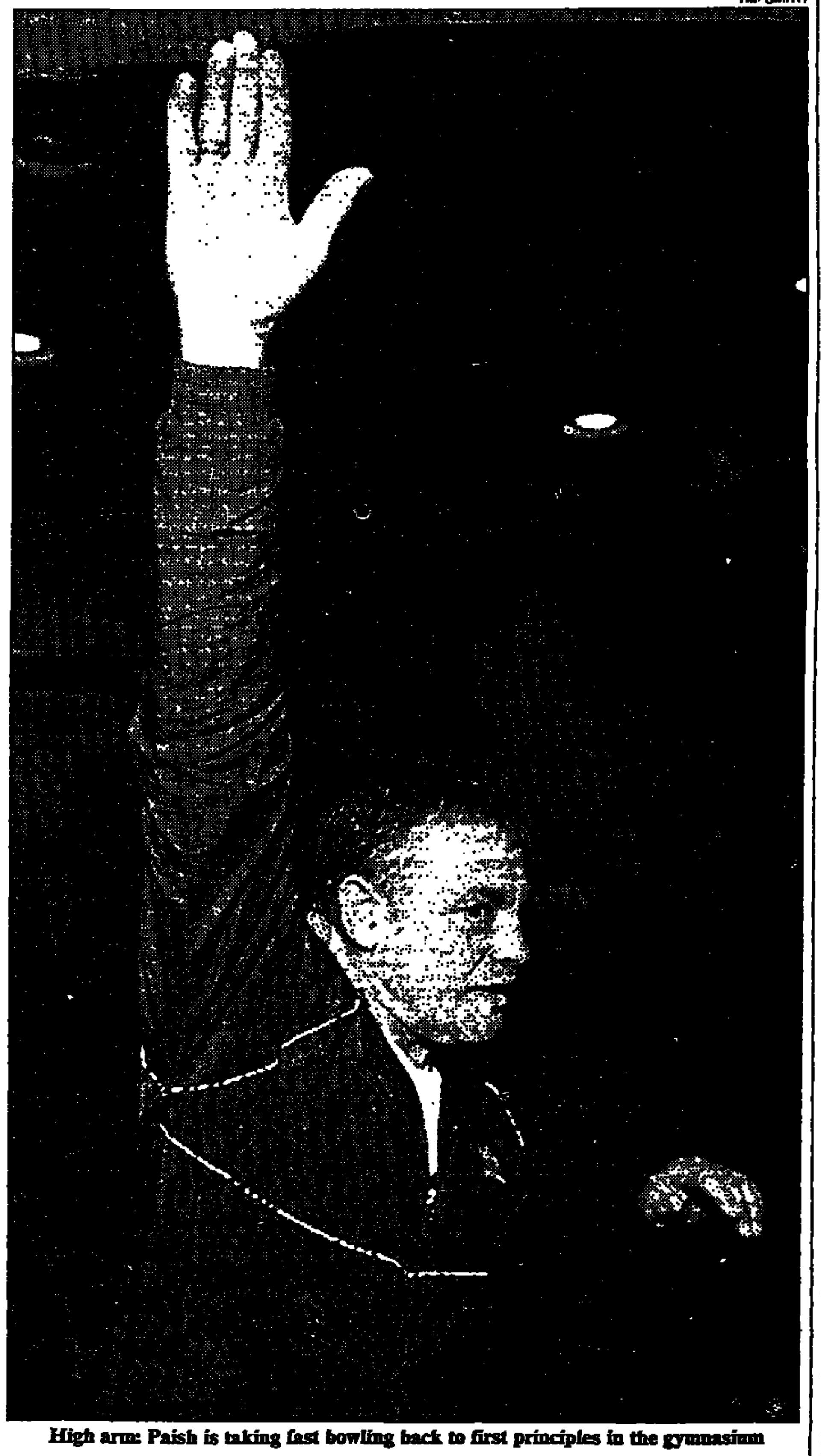
BOWLING: Wilson 14-6-42-1; Brown 10-0-33-0; Nash 10.5-1-35-0, Furlong 8-4-7-2, Astle 4-2-2-0, Stead 1-0-6-0.

NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19: First innings

S Blackmore c Shaw b Chapple	37
M Hart c Crawley b Chapple	22
D Nash c Shaw b Broadhurst	3
L Howell b Weston	100
S Fleming st Shaw b Smith	47
N Astle c Warren b Smith	0
G Stead lbw b Broadhurst	53
J Furlong lbw b Weston	1
J Wilson c Crawley b Broadhurst	0
M Sigley not out	22
K Brown not out	25
Extras (b 14, lb 22, w 4, nb 4)	44
Total (9 wkts dec)	354

BOWLING: Weston 28-7-53-2, Broadhurst 35-10-61-3; Chapple 38-10-80-2; Smith 35-11-68-2; Butcher 12-2-36-0, Lowrey 8-0-28-0.

TIM SMITH



High arm: Paish is taking fast bowling back to first principles in the gymnasium

Paish's revolutionary plan

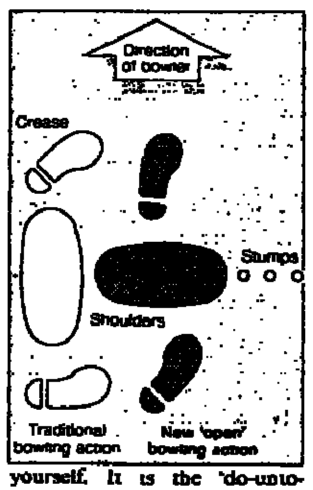
By JOHN GOODBODY

AS ENGLAND limp away from their defeat in the Ashes series, a leading athletics coach is teaching a revolutionary method to Yorkshire fast bowlers, which eventually could help bring greater success to English cricket.

Wilf Paish, who has advised Tessa Sanderson and Mick Hill, two of Britain's elite javelin throwers, is using his analysis of athletics techniques to aid cricketers to bowl faster. To give them the necessary physical qualities, they undergo many of the training regimes carried out by top athletes.

Ever since 1972, when Paish, a coach to the British team at the Olympic Games in Munich, outraged the cricket world by saying that the sport should be thankful that the East Germans did not play the game because they (and he) could add 20mph to the speed of fast bowlers, the Yorkshireman has been attempting to change the thinking in the sport.

"The game has suffered from inbreeding," he said. "The only way to become a top-class coach is to have been a top-class player yourself. It is the 'do-unto-others-as-was-done-to-me' philosophy. There is little importing of new ideas into the game."



However, since 1987, with the support of Bob Appleyard, the former Yorkshire and England Test player, members of the county team have been visiting Paish for physical training during the winter in preparation for the new season. Last October, he also helped launch, with Poundstretcher, the retailing chain, a search for a fast bowler.

There are three particular objections to the traditional method of bowling fast. First, there is the belief that cricket is always a side-on game. It is the received wisdom that, when bowling fast, the back foot should be parallel to the crease, with the front foot at about 35 degrees to the line of the pitch. However, cricketers are not flexible enough to achieve this position satisfactorily in the direction in which they want to run. Paish recommends a more open bowling action, with more of the body facing the batsman.

Second, the front foot should not be raised so high in the air in the delivery stride. "You want to get the front foot on the ground as soon as possible and rotate the body," Paish said. Cricketers traditionally believe that speed in fast bowling comes from a cartwheeling action.

Third, Paish says that fast bowlers take too long run-ups. Steve Backley, the world record-holder for javelin, and Mick Hill both take nine strides and Paish thinks that bowlers need 11 strides at the most, about the length of a pitch.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Twinges of doubt after close look at Welsh revival

By KEITH MACKLIN

TEAM lists and reference books have been heavily thumbed since it was announced that the Wales international side is to be revived to play Papua New Guinea next winter. First reaction was to give the news warm applause. The second was to bring out notebooks and jot down names of former Welsh rugby union players who might grace such a side.

Some names sprang to mind without difficulty. Jonathan Davies, John Devereux, Paul Moriarty, Adrian Hadley and Jonathan Griffiths came easily to the surface. Warrington's success in the Regal Trophy thrust into the forefront the new choices for the Great Britain training squad, Kevin Ellis and Alan Bateman. More than 20 names were eventually jotted down, enough to provide a sizeable area of choice.

However, since the initial excitement at the revival of the Red Dragon in rugby league, there have been twinges of doubt. A close look at the names indicates a plethora of quality backs but a shortage of forwards. To put it another way, there is an embarrassment of riches among the threequarters and halves but a lack of proven international quality elsewhere.

In addition to the above list, there is considerable back talent and experience in the likes of Phil Ford, Gerald Cordle, Rob Ackerman and Gary Pearce.

The question concerning Nos. 1 to 7 would be who to leave out. The outlook is less rosy in the scrum. Stuart Evans has had an injury-dogged career at St Helens, Mark Thomas is used as a substitute secret weapon at Warrington, and Rowland Phillips, newly arrived at Warrington, still lacks experience.

David Young still has to establish an immovable presence in the Leeds pack, David Bishop has gone back to Wales after his latest brush with authority at Hull Kingston Rovers, and the only hooker, Chris Preece, is playing in France for Palau.

Nevertheless, there is ample time for more signings and the further accumulation of experience by those who have "gone north", and enthusiasm has been shown for the revival by David Watkins, now a broadcaster, and Clive Griffiths, a member of the Warrington coaching staff, who are being suggested as manager and coach.

Ellis a step nearer realising ambition

By KEITH MACKLIN

WHEN Kevin Ellis left rugby union and Bridgend, his ambition was to prove the Welsh selectors wrong in giving him only three half-back caps at B level. Ellis, aged 24, was determined to reach Great Britain status with Warrington, and yesterday, his ambition came a considerable step nearer when he was chosen for the training squad to prepare for the second British Coal international, against France at Headingley a week on Saturday.

Ellis, whose tigerish displays at scrum half have been a feature of Warrington's recent revival of form, was a consistently outstanding performer in the club's march to victory in the Regal Trophy.

Ellis, who has made just 19 full appearances for Warrington, plus a further two games as substitute, has scored seven tries and is the only new name in Malcolm Reilly's selection, though there are several changes from the team which won a comprehensive victory at Perpignan in the first international match.

Out go Aston, Gibson, Paul Hulme and Sullivan, and back come David Hulme, Loughlin and the Hull front-row forward, Harrison, providing Harrison can clear a suspension with a reserve game on snowy Humberside this weekend.

The changes do not necessarily reflect Reilly's disappointment in the absentees. He has stated his intention of trying as many permutations as possible as he looks ahead to the World Cup fixtures and the rapidly approaching prospect of another meeting with Australia next year.

GREAT BRITAIN: P Eastwood (Hull), S Edwards (Wigan), K Ellis (Warrington), I St John Ellis (Castleford), S Hampson (Wigan), D Hulme (Widnes), P Loughlin (St Helens), M Offiah (Widnes), D Powell (Sheffield Eagles), G Schofield (Leeds), D Betts (Wigan), R Eyres (Widnes), K Fairbank (Bradford Northern), E Hanley (Wigan, captain), K Harrison (Hull), L Holliday (Widnes), L Jackson (Hull), I Lucas (Wigan), A Platt (Wigan).

GREAT BRITAIN UNDER-21 (v France at Huddersfield, February 15): G Connolly (St Helens), M Crompton (Warrington), P Darbyshire (Warrington), R Goulding (Wigan), A Hunte (St Helens), T Martyn (Oldham), D Myers (Wigan), C Rudd (Warrington), T Smith (Castleford), S Spruce (Widnes), G Burgess (Salford), G Chambers (Warrington), P Clarke (Wigan, captain), M Forshaw (Wigan), S McCurrie (Widnes), B McNamara (Hull), G Price (Wakefield Trinity), C Richards (Bradford Northern), G Southernwood (Castleford).

● Maine Road, the Manchester City football ground, will stage Swinton's first-round Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie against St Helens on Sunday. Swinton, with their own ground frozen, failed to get the game switched to Burnden Park, in Bolton.

CYCLING

Baker set to cap his recovery

By PETER BRYAN

DAVID Baker hopes to retain his National Trophy cyclo-cross title at Bramcote Park, Nottingham on Sunday, and thus salvage some reward from a second half to the season that has been adversely affected by illness.

The Raleigh professional declined selection for the world championship held earlier this week because he was dissatisfied with his form, and instead rode, and won, a local event. Since then, he has worked hard to maintain a demanding training schedule, despite problems posed by snow surrounding his Chesterfield home.

Baker, with maximum points from the opening two events in the series, looks set for his fourth title, and it would need a forceful ride from the British champion, Chris Young, of Ever Ready, to make up an eight-point deficit. Young, eighteenth in the world championship, needs to win at Nottingham to do so, with, in addition, Baker finishing outside the first three.

If there were to be a surprise result, it could only be provided by a Dutch trio led by last year's junior world champion, Erik Boezewinkel.

JUDO

Any medal a bonus for Britain

By NICOLAS SOAMES

DESPITE the withdrawal of the Japanese, the Tournoi de Paris, which starts today, promises to be one of the strongest, with 36 countries taking part. It is the first big European event in a busy competitive year, with the European championships in May and the world championships in July.

Britain are sending their top squad. The women are led by the world featherweight champion, Sharon Rendle, and include the world junior middleweight champion, Kate Howey, who won a silver medal last year. Only Karen Briggs has declined to compete. The men's team is depleted by injury, but includes Bods Gallon, aged 19, a heavyweight from Newcastle.

Roy Inman, the British women's team manager, said: "The Tournoi de Paris is one of the toughest judo competitions in the calendar and any medal is a bonus."

PROGRAMME: Today: Men: Bantamweight (under 60kg), feather (u65k). Women: Bantam (u48k), feather (u52k). Tomorrow: Men: Light (u71k), middle (u86k), light-heavy (u95k). Women: Light (u56k), light-middle (u61k). Sunday: Men: Light-middle (u78k), heavy (over 95kg). Women: Middle (u66k), light-heavy (u72k), heavy (over 72kg).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

Barclays League
Third division

Swansea v Exeter
Tranmere v Preston

Both pitches subject to inspection.

POSTPONED: Bournemouth v Wigan; Southend v Cambridge Utd.

Fourth division

Torquay v Cardiff

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Postponed: Colchester v Welling.

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Postponed: Norwich v Crystal Palace.

RUGBY LEAGUE

BRITISH COAL UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: Great Britain v France (Huddersfield).

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Men's senior indoor world masters (Kelvin Hall, Glasgow).

RACKETS: Open singles championships (Queen's Club, London).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges international masters (Wembley).

Denis Tingay's suggestion for a sporting day out

KARATE: Cowie's Champion of Champions tournament: Fifteen of Britain's top karate competitors, including eight world and various European and national champions, take part in this invitation event on Sunday, at the Civic Centre, Mansfield.

Seventeen entrants will compete in heavy, middle and lightweight classes, and instead of having winners within the categories, semi-finals and a final will be fought to find an overall winner. The five British team members, fresh from their fifth consecutive world championship victory, also take part, making it one of the finest fields ever assembled for a single tournament.

HOW TO GET THERE: The Civic Centre is in Chesterfield Road South in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and can be reached by leaving the M1 at junction 27, from which Mansfield is clearly signposted. The Civic Centre is also signposted from the outskirts of the town, and is situated next to the fire station. The event takes place between 6.00 and 10.00pm, with admission prices of £5 for adults and £3 for children. Parking and refreshment facilities are available.

Tempering can lead Nicholls to double

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

WHILE the country's grass courses remain frozen, racing continues to take place on the Fibresand surface at Southwell where the experienced Yorkshire-based jockey David Nicholls has sound prospects of landing a double today on Tempering (1.55) and Cosimo (3.25).

In going nap on Tempering to win the Gamston Handicap, I am banking on this David Chapman-trained five-year-old being as effective over two miles as he has shown himself to be already over shorter distances.

To fulfil that requirement, Nicholls will certainly need to plumb the depths of his 16 years experience as a jockey because Tempering is unquestionably a headstrong character, whose style of racing is to attack from the front.

While those tactics have proved highly effective on four occasions over 11 and 12 furlongs on this surface already this year, there has to be a doubt as to whether they will succeed over this trip.

Knowing that he is a half-brother to the 1987 Ascot Gold Cup winner Paean by Kris, whose stock have got far further at the highest level than any breeding pundit might have imagined when he was retired to stud, I think the risk is worth taking, especially knowing what a revelation Tempering has turned out to be since he started racing on this particular surface.

Also, his trainer has shown that he possesses a knack when dealing with horses running in quick succession.

Chapman: two-mile test for Tempering

Having carried 10st 7lb to victory already, today's burden should not prove a problem as far as Tempering is concerned.

However, those who prefer to put their trust in proven stamina will understandably opt for Old Hubert rather than either of the other recent winners in the field, Steppey Lane or Celtic Bob.

Old Hubert can claim to have won the Chester Cup over even further in his time, besides a similar race over today's course and distance in December. Furthermore, his weight will also be reduced by the 7lb allowance that his 18-year-old apprentice rider Brett Doyle claims. Having landed the first double of his career at Lingfield last Saturday, Doyle will be brimful with confidence.

However, I feel that it will be Tempering's limbs that will prove the stronger on this occasion since he is five years younger than Old Hubert.

Cosimo, Nicholls' ride in the Design Contractors New Balderton Claiming Stakes, is trained by Paul Blockley for the Red Lion Turf Club, whose numerous owners enjoyed a successful strike at the course on Monday when their hurdler Andrew's First won.

Following a rest, Cosimo is reported to be ready to give them another reason to celebrate since his form on this surface stands up well under scrutiny. The danger is Top Of The Bill who is fit from hurdling.

Having won twice over a mile on the track since the turn of the year, Will He Or Wont He should be in an obliging frame of mind again for the Old Clipstone Claiming Stakes even though Detour should prove harder to beat this time now that she has a 7lb advantage for the six lengths that separated them previously.

Danny Blanchflower, my selection for the Halam Handicap over seven furlongs, has already won over today's course and distance this year. His recent close third behind Miss Sarajane and Euroblake was also entirely adequate. Danny Blanchflower also has the ideal draw.

As far as the Mansfield Handicap is concerned, I am content to leave the probable outcome in the hands of Alex Greaves, the undisputed queen of Southwell, astride Macconachie, who was beaten only a neck by Cribella last time out.

Blinkered first time

SOUTHWELL: 1.25 Comtec Flyer.

Sale of Sandown group could raise £30m for industry

By RICHARD EVANS

THE sale of Sandown Park, Epsom and Kempton Park racecourses could raise at least £30 million for the racing industry's depleted coffers, according to informed estimates yesterday.

Various figures, ranging up to £50 million, were being bandied about after Sir John Sparrow, chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, told MPs he was attracted by the idea of the board selling the three courses it owned — provided their racing rights were protected.

The Levy Board bought Epsom and Sandown for £1.5 million in 1969 and acquired Kempton the following year for £800,000. The three popular outer London tracks were purchased to safeguard their future as racecourses and are managed successfully by United Racecourses (UR), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Levy Board.

The precise value of the three courses depends on the timing of any sale. Sir John, giving evidence to the Commons home affairs select committee enquiry into the levy system, indicated the commercially appropriate moment to sell may be some-time away, given the state of the economy.

The Levy Board will consider the idea of selling the courses at its annual strategy meeting on February 20. It was being stressed yesterday no action would be taken until the board decides whether to investigate further the idea.

"This is at the very embryonic stage. It will be discussed by the board in two weeks' time," Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the Levy Board, said.

Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of UR, said yesterday: "The future of the racecourses must be secure. The most important thing is that we have to try and realise the capital value without jeopardising the future of the racecourses."

He warned against thinking any sale represented a potential gold mine for racing. The value would be related to the cash flow from the various activities at the courses.

Non-racing activities, such as conferences, receptions, snooker, and a nine-hole golf course, contribute significantly to United Racecourses's income. Sandown is used 300 days a year, Kempton 100 days a year, and Epsom will have considerable non-racing potential when its new stands and improvements are completed.

Sir John's remarks sparked off intense speculation as to who would be interested in purchasing three of Britain's best known racecourses.

A management buy-out by UR is a strong possibility. The company has an excellent record for managing the trio of courses. It has successfully adopted a strategy of treating each course as an entertainment centre. Although racing is the predominant activity, other facilities at Sandown and Kempton are used by local people while the ability to stage conferences and exhibitions attracts customers from further afield.

Tim Neligan, UR's go-ahead managing director, and directors such as Sir Alastair Burnet are thought to be keen to buy the courses they run, provided the financial burden is not too severe.

A second option could be for Racecourse Holdings Trust (RHT) to buy the courses by itself, or to be involved jointly with United Racecourses. RHT was established in 1964 to acquire and preserve Cheltenham racecourse, and now has seven further courses in its care. The company, set up as a trust, became a subsidiary of the Jockey Club in 1969.

If the Levy Board decides to proceed with Sir John's idea, it will have to work out how the courses's racing activities can be adequately protected.

The Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984 offers considerable protection to the famous home of the Derby and the Oaks. No such legislative safeguards exist for the courses at Esher and Sunbury.

RUGBY UNION

Headless chicken style does not suit the dragon

By GERALD DAVIES

THIS has been a critical week for Ron Waldron as the Welsh manager must wonder, having kept with the same team over the last two matches, how far must he wield the axe and start chopping again.

The team's announcement has been delayed until questions have been answered on the playing fields on Sunday.

There are those who wish that he would reconsider his philosophy of the game. Those who subscribe to this view feel that the Neath style of play is all very well at club level, but there is little hope for it to be transferred successfully to the international arena.

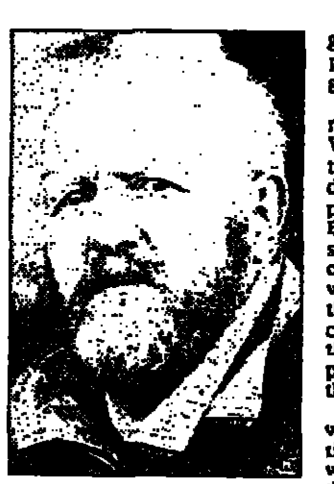
Which, it is assumed, is what is happening to the national team. Suddenly, the "Neath style" is meant to encompass a unique vision of the game. The catch-all phrase has entered the rugby language and in Wales, when applied to the Welsh team, is seen curiously as an overwhelming weakness.

The sight of Kevin Phillips, the hooker, snatching the ball to take an endless series of tap penalties for his club and charging, as someone suggested, like "a headless chicken" towards the opposition, has come to epitomise the Neath style of play.

The "Neath style" is reduced to this and comes, wrongly, to define it; a game played at a frenetic pace without much thought.

If there are faults in the Neath style — and regular readers of this column will understand by now what this might be, haircuts and all — it is not in their attempts to have a fluid game. In this respect, and in their complete command of the club scene of the last five years, they have forced Welsh rugby to wear a red face of embarrassing inactivity.

Neath, like it or not, have tried to lift Welsh rugby out of the doldrums. It is the slowness of other clubs to redefine their game, to move away from those complacent days of the static maul and the percentage game, to remain insular and blind to other developments, that has allowed Welsh rugby to be in the plight it finds itself.



Waldron: the Neath way

"My philosophy of the game is very similar to that of the Scottish team, and the way they played on Saturday," Waldron says. "They were fast, mobile, strong and were quick thinkers with or without the ball. When you have those qualities, allied to all that experience which Scotland have, they form an irresistible combination.

"I certainly admire the way Scotland played at Murrayfield. From my time with Neath, this is the way the club wishes to play the game, but in the Scottish fashion it has reached a higher level because of the international standard and quality of the players. Welsh rugby, particularly at club level, should be aiming for those standards."

The crucial question that remains is whether the selectors, in the concentrated time available at international level, can get the right combination of players to play that style of game.

Here they should seriously reconsider their plans. For Waldron, the deepest concern is the failure of the scrum to develop from that which was promising in the game against England. England, for their part, say that they relaxed and did not concern themselves over-much with the Welsh scrum. If this is the case, they should not concern themselves over-much either with believing those premature comparisons with the All Blacks.

The All Blacks remedy such weaknesses on the field at the time, not offer excuses afterwards. England, although going through a strong period, have yet to win any prizes for their potential. No triple crown, no grand slam. And time for them is running out.

"I was disappointed," Waldron says, "that we had five very bad scrums at Murrayfield. From three of them Scotland scored tries. This was disastrous for us because we had thought we had formed a platform upon which to build. The gamble we have taken in certain positions has not come off, whereas, say, at stand-off and centre, the gamble has succeeded."

Major surgery is likely at forward so that each row will see changes. The tightening of the scrum can be worked on, but the lineout needs a specialist middle-of-the-line jumper where Gareth Llewellyn has not managed to win his share of possession.

With the front five not functioning solidly, it has been difficult to analyse the efficiency of the back row. The experiment with Arnold at No. 8 seems to have failed. Waldron will presumably put the Swansea player back in the second row. The call for the return of Phil Davies at No. 8 is clamorous, although he is not in the squad.

Von Csadek not ruled out yet for National

THE American Grand National hopeful Von Csadek will not be withdrawn from the race at the first forfeit stage next week, despite having suffered an injury that may rule him out of the Aintree contest.

Von Csadek, who was found to have fractured a splint bone in his near-fore, had his operation on Wednesday when the splint was successfully removed.

His owner Margaret Worrall reported: "It went very well and the horse was up immediately. The splint was taken out so that it doesn't cause any further problems.

"We have decided we are going to leave him in the National and review the situation when the next cut-off date comes round. I can't comfortably say that he will run, but it is just in case he makes a quick recovery and we are able to put him straight back into training. I am an incurable optimist."

The first forfeit stage for the National is next Tuesday with a further deadline on March 19.

Von Csadek, who won two out of his four races during his spell with Henrietta Knight earlier this season, was allotted 10st 4lb in the handicap when the weights were published earlier this week.

Mrs Worrall's amateur rider son Patrick has been dieting since he returned to Maryland but would still have to put up overweight if he rode at Aintree.

● Bigsun has been backed down to 20-1 from 25-1 with Corals for the Grand National. The same firm have cut Native Mission to 10-1 from 14-1 in their Triumph Hurdle list.

Royal hope faces stiff Cagnes test

FLAT racing returns to Cagnes-sur-Mer today, provided there are no further snowfalls, and British trainers could be on the mark in two races.

The Queen's four-year-old filly Church Missionary (Guy Guignard) will be hoping to gain her first victory in the the ten-furlong Prix du Docteur Gazagnaire.

The royal filly does not face an easy task as Marseille-trained stable companions Sentimentaliste and Tanson and the useful Parisian performers Atakad and Fabuleuse Cherie, will guarantee that this will be a stiff test for Lord Huntingdon's protege.

Alex Scott's first runner here was second on Sunday and he will be hoping that Alton Bay (William Mongil) can go one better in the Prix d'Ajaccio.

Prospects poor as two more meetings are lost

THE Newbury and Uttoxeter meetings, scheduled for tomorrow, have already been called off because of frost and snow, and prospects for Catterick Bridge and Ayr are poor. Both courses have inspections this morning.

Tomorrow's other remaining fixture is on the Lingfield Equitrack, but yesterday's all-weather card, passed fit for the horses, was cancelled by the stewards after they adjudged the public would have trouble getting to the track.

Lingfield's clerk of the course Geoff Stickels said: "We have worked hard to get the track fit, but all the access roads are blocked."

Monday's meeting at Plumpton is also in doubt and the track will be inspected at 10am tomorrow.

The all-weather fixture at Southwell today has a good chance of going ahead. The clerk of the course Jane Groves yesterday reported: "The track is absolutely perfect. We will try and keep the access roads clear during the night, but that could depend on how much snow we have."

● Four of the six point-to-point fixtures scheduled for tomorrow are frost casualties, and the two remaining meetings, the East Cornwall and Haydon, are subject to inspections later today.

SOUTHWELL

Selections

By Mandarin
1.25 Will He Or Wont He.
1.55 TEMPERING (nap).
2.25 Danny Blanchflower.
2.55 Miss Knight.
3.25 Cosimo.
3.55 Macconachie.

By Thunderer
1.25 Roberty Lea.
1.55 Steppey Lane.
2.25 Danny Blanchflower.
2.55 JOLLY FISHERMAN (nap).
3.25 Achelous.
3.55 Macconachie.

By Michael Seely
1.25 DETOUR (nap). 1.55 Old Hubert. 2.25 Danny Blanchflower.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.25 DANNY BLANCHFLOWER.

Going: standard SIS

1.25 OLD CLIPSTONE CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,521: 1m) (8 runners)

1	(7)	00-61	ROBERTY LEA 21 (CD) (D Bowker) T Fairhurst 8-10	J Fanning (5)	93
2	(4)	6002-11	WILL HE OR WONT HE 7 (V,CD) (M Tipper) C Allen 8-8	Mick Denaro (7)	98
3	(2)	335354-	GAVIN ALLEN 113 (Shadowfax Racing) C Allen 8-4	N Gwilliams (5)	95
4	(6)	00050-	PARLIAMENTARY 94 (M Brittain) M Brittain 8-2	S Maloney (5)	86
5	(5)	00400-4	WHIPPERS DELIGHT 7 (F,G) (T Barron) T Barron 8-2	Alex Greaves (3)	97
6	(1)	41100-4	DETOUR 7 (C,F) (T Cheshire) W Haggas 7-12	R Fox	● 99
7	(3)	42145-6	IMITATE 7 (S) (M Hill) D Chapman 7-11	S Wood (3)	98
8	(8)	00-65	COMTEC FLYER 7 (B) (P Bottomley) J Bottomley 7-8	A Mackay	79

BETTING: 15-8 Will He Or Wont He, 3-1 Detour, 9-2 Roberty Lea, 6-1 Whippers Delight, 8-1 Gavin Allen, 10-1 others.

1990: MEETING ABANDONED - COURSE WATERLOGGED

FORM FOCUS ROBERTY LEA showed improved form when making all to beat Gipsy King 2l in maiden over course and distance with COMTEC FLYER (11lb better off) always behind and 16½l 6th.
WILL HE OR WONT HE beat Sarnes Pet 3l over course and distance with DETOUR (same terms) 3l 4th, COMTEC FLYER (same terms) 12l 5th and IMITATE (1lb better off) tailed off last of 8; previously just held on to beat Carrolls Marc a head over course and distance. GAVIN ALLEN 9l 4th to Desert Splendour in valuable 17-runner nursery at Newmarket (7f, good). PARLIAMENTARY never dangerous 18l 8th to Jet Pet in maiden at Hamilton (6f, soft). WHIPPERS DELIGHT 10½l 4th to Jolly Fisherman in handicap here (7f); previously won 7f sellers at Carlisle and Wolverhampton.
Selection: WILL HE OR WONT HE

1.55 GAMSTON HANDICAP (£2,588: 2m) (10 runners)

1	(3)	5-11101	TEMPERING 14 (C,F) (M Hill) D Chapman 5-10-5	D Nicholls	97
2	(9)	4640/12-	COME TO TERMS 342 (C,BF,F) (S Hutchinson) T Barron 5-8-13	Alex Greaves (3)	86
3	(8)	005025-	QUALITAIR AVIATOR 41 (C,BF,F) (Qualitair Ltd) J Bottomley 5-8-11	A Munro	95
4	(5)	0540-11	STEPPEY LANE 7 (C,G,S) (Dr C Emmerson) W Haigh 6-8-6 (5ex)	Dean McKeown	94
5	(1)	00051-3	BOULEVARD GIRL 27 (D,F,G,S) (Innovative Marketing) C Booth 6-8-4	A Culhane	86
6	(2)	3/1	CELTIC BOB 13 (O O'Neill) O O'Neill 11-7-10	R Fox	94
7	(6)	8/55103-	WINDBOUND LASS 20J (F) (R Savery) R Holder 8-7-9	N Adams	91
8	(10)	03016-4	OLD HUBERT 14 (B,CD,F,G,S) (J Edwards) A Bailey 10-7-7	B Doyle (7)	● 99
9	(4)	006/0	ALARM CALL 17 (G,S) (W Francis) N Kernick 8-7-7	S Maloney (5)	—
10	(7)	6300-34	SPORTING LASS 13 (Rokdale Ltd) P Kelleway 4-7-7	J Quinn	79

Long handicap: Old Hubert 7-5, Alarm Call 7-1, Sporting Lass 6-0.

BETTING: 7-4 Steppey Lane, 5-2 Tempering, 9-2 Old Hubert 7-1 Celtic Bob, Come To Terms, 8-1 Windbound Lass, 10-1 Boulevard Girl, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS TEMPERING made all to easily beat Majestic Image 6l here (1m 3f); previously beat Bedouin Prince comfortably 2l here (1m 3f).
COME TO TERMS got up to beat Dollar Seeker ¾l here (1m 4f) last February. QUALITAIR AVIATOR made most to beat COME TO TERMS (1lb worse off) ½l here (1m 6f) in March, subsequently caught near finish when ¾l 2nd to Go South at Lingfield (2m, AW) with OLD HUBERT (2lb better off) 2¾l 6th. STEPPEY LANE easily beat Lafcadio 3l here (1m 6f); previously won unchallenged by 6l from Hidden here (1m 6f) with OLD HUBERT (14lb better off) 4l 4th. BOULEVARD GIRL one-paced 8l 3rd to Bankroll at Lingfield (1m 5f, AW); previously beat Link Market 2l at same course (2m). CELTIC BOB beat Princess Roxanne 1l in maiden at Lingfield (1m 4f, AW) with SPORTING LASS (6lb worse off) 5l 4th. WINDBOUND LASS one-paced 5½l 3rd to Chucklestone at Bath (2m 1f 27yd, good to firm). OLD HUBERT beat Northwold Star 3l over course and distance with BOULEVARD GIRL (2lb better off) 3½l 5th. ALARM CALL 25l 7th to Russian Red at Lingfield (1m 5f, AW).
Selection: STEPPEY LANE

2.25 HALAM HANDICAP (£2,521: 7f) (10 runners)

1	(7)	042-041	CROSBY 9 (B,CD,F,G,S) (R Tooth) P Kelleway 5-10-0 (7ex)	A Bates (7)	95
2	(1)	800-300	VINTAGE TYPE 21 (D,F) (E Stockdale) D Chapman 4-9-10	D Nicholls	92
3	(8)	430300-	AYODESSA 129 (F) (Mrs B D Georgiou) Ronald Thompson 4-8-13	—	90
4	(5)	00050-1	CHARLY PHARLY 28 (B,CD,S) (F Lee) F Lee 4-8-10	R Lappin	96
5	(6)	3406-13	DANNY BLANCHFLOWER 7 (CD) (J Evans) M Chapman 4-8-7	A Munro	● 99
6	(2)	0044-01	SILLY'S BROTHER 14 (CD) (J Swinburne) N Bycroft 5-8-6	S Webster	95
7	(10)	080-29	PETITE ELITE 14 (E) (J Fitzgerald) Jimmy Fitzgerald 4-8-3	D Smith (5)	92
8	(4)	600-633	MR CHEEKYCHOPS 9 (G) (M M Racing Ltd) M Brittain 4-8-1	S Maloney (5)	90
9	(9)	0000-00	HONEY MILL 8 (E Badger) O O'Neill 5-7-8	R Fox	90
10	(8)	004/000-	MISS MOODY 89J (Mrs C Day) J Bradley 5-7-7	N Adams	—

Long handicap: Miss Moody 7-0.

BETTING: 9-4 Danny Blanchflower 3-1 Charly Pharly, 7-2 Silly's Brother, 5-1 Crosby, 8-1 Vintage Type, 10-1 Ayodessa, 12-1 Petite Elite, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS CROSBY penalised 7lb for 2l defeat of Hard Sell over course and distance with HONEY MILL (10lb better off) 9l 7th. VINTAGE TYPE has been disappointing since 1l 3rd to Doulab's Image here (1m) last month with CROSBY (6lb worse off) 8l 9th.
CHARLY PHARLY beat Broad Story ¾l in claimer over course and distance. DANNY BLANCHFLOWER one paced 2½l 3rd to Miss Sarajane in claimer here (1m); previously beat PETITE ELITE (6lb better off) 1½l in similar race over course and distance. SILLY'S BROTHER quickened clear entering straight to beat Hard Sell 3½l off 7lb lower mark in similar race over course and distance. MR CHEEKYCHOPS one paced 4½l 3rd to Shannon Express here (1m).
Selection: CHARLY PHARLY

● Alan Munro, sidelined after a heavy fall from Mystic Crystal at Redcar in October, resumes riding today at Southwell, where he partners Qualitair Aviator in the Gamston Handicap. Munro, stood down for three months after being concussed, has three other mounts at the Nottinghamshire course.

Guide to our in-line racecard

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.55 LANGFORD APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,651: 6f) (15 runners)

1	(11)	04000-4	MOSSY ROSE 14 (CD) (S Sharp) Pat Mitchell 5-9-10	Ron Hillis	95
2	(14)	60302-0	ERIK ODIN 27 (Mrs C Dickson) Mrs L Piggott 4-9-7	Beverley Brett (7)	96
3	(7)	60000-5	MISS KNIGHT 14 (C,D,G) (Mrs C Bastiman) R Bastiman 4-9-3	H Bastiman (3)	90
4	(13)	004-541	JOLLY FISHERMAN 7 (C) M Chapman 3-9-0 (7ex)	Mick Denaro (3)	94
5	(9)	05/0068-	THE SWAMP FOX 28J (D Smith) J Bradley 4-8-13	Michael Bradley (7)	88
6	(15)	0204/00	PREVAILING WIND 28 (M Brittain) M Brittain 5-8-12	S Maloney	—
7	(4)	50000-0	FAILAND 17 (V,BF,F) (J Neville) R Holder 4-8-12	S Drowne (3)	90
8	(3)	0000-40	BALLAD TUNE 9 (Mrs I Pryce) S Bowring 6-8-11	G Hind	87
9	(8)	51/300-	BUSINESS AS USUAL 87 (D,F) (R Parsons) J Scargill 3-8-9	S Ashworth (7)	93
10	(1)	10000-6	BREAK LOOSE 13 (B,D,F,G) (C Booth) D Chapman 5-8-8	S Wood	● 99
11	(2)	024-00	HAMLET CROFT 20 (Manor Farm Dairies (Haverhill) Ltd) A Bailey 3-8-5	B Doyle (3)	89
12	(10)	54300-4	JIVE MUSIC 13 (N Bycroft) N Bycroft 5-7-9	Jaid Houston (3)	89
13	(5)	0-00	MALTBY HYUNDAI 13 (Claremont Management Services) R King 3-7-9	D Biggs	—
14	(12)	0500-02	WANE'S SECRET 21 (Wane Garages Ltd) K McCauley 3-7-8	J Fanning	94
15	(6)	0600-04	BRERA 21 (E) (Mrs C Dickson) Mrs L Piggott 3-7-7	G Milligan (7)	87

Long handicap: Brera 6-12.

BETTING: 3-1 Jolly Fisherman, 4-1 Wane's Secret, 9-2 Mossy Rose, 6-1 Brera, 8-1 Break Loose, Failand, 10-1 Jive Music, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS MOSSY ROSE 6l 4th to Silly's Brother here (7f) with MISS KNIGHT (2lb better off) 8½l 8th. JOLLY FISHERMAN eased near finish when comfortably defeating Tom's Prospect 4l here (7f). BUSINESS AS USUAL 9l 8th of 21 to Merryhill Maid on final start last term in Newmarket claimer (6f, good). JIVE MUSIC 8l 4th to Damaskeen at Lingfield (5f) with BREAK LOOSE (1lb worse off) ¾l 6th. WANE'S SECRET 2nd beaten 8l by On The Edge here (5f) with BRERA (6lb worse off) 3l 4th.
Selection: JOLLY FISHERMAN

3.25 DESIGN CONTRACTORS NEW BALDERTON CLAIMING STAKES (£2,738: 1m 3f) (16 runners)

1	(7)	222215-	COSIMO 88 (C,G) (Red Lion Turf Club) P Blockley 4-8-13	D Nicholls	● 99
2	(9)	244000-	AFRICAN SPIRIT 28J (F,G,S) (G Tufts) R Whitaker 7-8-11	A Culhane	77
3	(8)	0021-	ACHELOUS 70 (CD) (W Derry) J Glover 4-8-10	Alex Greaves (3)	85
4	(2)	024303-	MOUNTAIN GLOW 143J (M Toulson) J Harris 4-8-9	T Williams	97
5	(5)	253108-	TOP OF THE BILL 14J (F,G) (N Callaghan) N Callaghan 4-8-8	B Doyle (7)	91
6	(4)	4/23121-	MARANDISA 144 (F) (Mrs H Wane) K McCauley 4-8-5	L Charnock	—
7	(3)	010244-	MARGS GIRL 87 (C,F,G) (G Stephenson) T Fairhurst 4-8-5	J Fanning (5)	95
8	(1)	3045/60-	OUTSTANDING BILL 14J (K Smith) J Jefferson 5-8-5	W Ryan	83
9	(12)	/0280-5	RED PENCIL 14 (Mrs P Tellwright) R Hollinshead 6-8-3	E Husband (7)	93
10	(14)	00600-0	GIVE IN 21 (B,C,S) (Mrs N Macauley) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-2	A Munro	77
11	(15)	0245-24	HAND PAINTED 7 (Mrs M Baxter) J Pearce 7-8-1	S Dawson	91
12	(11)	030060-	TRISTAN'S COMET 18J (G Pyatt) J Harris 4-8-1	Emma O'Gorman (5)	89
13	(10)	0000-	DARTINGTON HALL 38J (Black Diamond Racing) M Chapman 4-7-12	S Wood (3)	—
14	(16)	0030/0	MUMMY 7 (D Moon) D Gandolfo 5-7-12	A Mackay	78
15	(13)	0/020-	ADELINE LYNN 18J (Dets (Bloodstock) Ltd) N Tinkler 5-7-11	S Maloney (5)	—
16	(8)	2430-46	PRECIOUS BALLERINA 9 (M Jackson) J Hetherton 5-7-11	J Quinn	86

BETTING: 11-4 Top Of The Bill, 100-30 Achelous, 9-2 Marandisa, 6-1 Cosimo, 8-1 Margs Girl, 10-1 Mountain Glow, 12-1 Red Pencil, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS COSIMO, a winner over 1m 4f here on penultimate start, 1¾l 5th to Society Ball over same course and distance. ACHELOUS beat Colour Scheme 7l over course and distance.
MOUNTAIN GLOW 5l 3rd to Dress Parade at Ripon (1m 2f, good to firm). TOP OF THE BILL, a winner at Doncaster (1m 2f 50yd, good) in September, staying-on 6l 8th to Topsannah in Newmarket (1m 1f, good) claimer with ACHELOUS (8lb worse off) 6l 8th. MARANDISA beat Golden Success 3l in Ballinrobe (1m 2f, good to firm) handicap. HAND PAINTED staying-on 3l 4th to Miss Sarajane over 1m here with MUMMY 8l 8th. ADELINE LYNN 2l 2nd in Clonmel (1m 4f, firm) maiden on penultimate start. PRECIOUS BALLERINA best recent effort when 3½l 4th to Predictable over 1m 4f here.
Selection: COSIMO

3.55 MANSFIELD HANDICAP (£2,651: 1m 4f) (12 runners)

1	(4)	022133	BEDOUIN PRINCE 6 (CD) (M Toulson) J Harris 4-9-13	T Williams	97
2	(12)	54246-4	MYSTERY BAND 14 (H,F) (Unique Racing Plc) C Beever 5-9-11	S O'Gorman (5)	91
3	(8)	000/000-	RIEVAULX 16J (E) (Hambleton Racing) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-8-6	D Smith (5)	89
4	(11)	00/0006-	QUALITAIR BLAZER 283 (P Bottomley) J Bottomley 4-9-0	Paul Eddery	84
5	(6)	15/6022-	SYWELL LAD 8J (BF,F,S) (Mrs I Evans) R Curtis 6-8-13	M Marshall (5)	95
6	(8)	00000-0	GREAT GUSTO 17 (D,F) (Mrs S Brown) R Holder 5-8-12	J Williams	93
7	(10)	00050/4	ISOBAR 7 (F,G) (A Whiteley) M Chapman 5-8-12	Mick Denaro (7)	84
8	(1)	064-432	MACCONACHIE 8 (W Spink) T Barron 4-8-11	Alex Greaves (3)	● 98
9	(5)	3040/3	ASTURIAS 28 (S) (Mrs A Dawson) A Stringer 8-8-10	A Munro	98
10	(2)	4000-44	TO BE FAIR 17 (D,F) (M Redic) J Scargill 4-8-1	S Wood (3)	95
11	(3)	0032-03	MADAM TAYLOR 7 (B,F,G,S) (G Whitaker) R Peacock 6-8-1	N Adams	97
12	(7)	00009/	COSMIC RAY 14J (P Aconley) Mrs V Aconley 6-8-0	G Hind (3)	—

BETTING: 15-8 Macconachie, 3-1 Madam Taylor, 9-2 Isobar, 6-1 Bedouin Prince, 8-1 Mystery Band, To Be Fair, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS BEDOUIN PRINCE 6l 3rd to Tempering over 1m 3f on penultimate start with MYSTERY BAND (1lb better off) 5l 4th; previously beat Beau Quest 2l here and 2l 2nd to Tempering over 1m 3f here with ASTURIAS (10lb better off) 5l 3rd and MADAM TAYLOR (13lb better off) 15l 7th.
QUALITAIR BLAZER staying-on 7l 5th to Latin Leap at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). SYWELL LAD 2½l 3rd to Gippeswyck Lady at Lingfield (2m, soft). MACCONACHIE neck 2nd to Cribella over course and distance with BEDOUIN PRINCE (1lb better off) 3l 3rd; earlier 9l 3rd to Rasheed at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW) with GREAT GUSTO 22l 9th. TO BE FAIR 10½l 4th to Russian Red at Lingfield (1m 5f, AW). MADAM TAYLOR 10l 3rd to Steppey Lane over 1m 6f here with ISOBAR 3l 4th.
Selection: BEDOUIN PRINCE

Course specialists

TRAINERS

	Winners	Runners	Per cent
T Barron	36	115	31.3
W Haggas	3	11	27.3
P Kelleway	3	17	17.6
Jimmy Fitzgerald	7	40	17.5
W Haigh	4	25	16.0
F Lee	4	26	15.4

JOCKEYS

	Winners	Rides	Per cent
Alex Greaves	39	102	38.2
D Nicholls	8	37	21.6
J Fanning	5	28	17.9
Mick Denaro	3	19	15.8
R Lappin	5	34	14.7
A Munro	5	38	13.2

County pleads for semi-final share

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WARWICKSHIRE, who have twice been county championship finalists in the last six years but were dismissed by Cornwall in last weekend's semi-final, are to seek a competition rule change after, they claim, being out of pocket following their visit to Redruth. They want to revert to the situation that existed before this season, when the competing counties in the semi-finals were entitled to an equal share of the gate money.

Cornwall won the match 14-6 before a crowd of 12,000, who will have created substantial gate receipts, but the Rugby Football Union (RFU) contends that the support Cornwall are able to generate, uniquely to the competition, entitles them to the profit and that the expenses of the visiting team are adequately covered by the reserve fund specifically established to cover unusual travel costs.

In addition, I understand that Cornwall covered the cost of the post-match dinner, which they were not obliged to do in its entirety, and that a proportion of the television fee received from TSW, who covered the match live, will be sent to Warwickshire.

John Richardson, Warwickshire's representative on the RFU committee, has written to Bill Bishop, chairman of the union's competitions sub-committee and himself a Cornishman, asking for a review of the existing situation.

Warwickshire, who were awarded £3,000 from the reserve fund, believe that such monies — donated by ADT, the sponsors — are better left untouched when there is a gate of such considerable proportions.

"We think the competitions sub-committee has got it wrong," Jim Bambrick, the Warwickshire secretary, said. "There will be no change from £3,000 after our travel and hotel expenses and, overall, with squad sessions for the game and so on, we will be out of pocket. At the semi-final stage, there is more interest and we think it's worth money to the visiting side."

However, Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, pointed out that only in Cornwall is such support for the county championship so apparent.

"When the rules were changed, it was felt that counties ought to be encouraged to sell more tickets and so finance themselves and market the game better," he said. "Cornwall are clearly entitled to the rewards for doing that.

"We made a loss of £11,000 on last year's final [between Lancashire and Middlesex] and I'm bound to say some of the counties, who are vociferous about restoring the championship, sell about 200 tickets in such circumstances. We have no misgivings over this. Cornwall reap the benefits because they draw enormous support."

In any case, the competition rules have been known since the start of the season.

Bambrick emphasises there is no ill-will between the contending counties; he and his colleagues will be cheering Cornwall on at Twickenham in the final against Yorkshire on April 20. "There is a feeling that, in division one of the championship at least, the RFU has got it right," he said.

With that in mind, Warwickshire will propose to the RFU that in future the county championship be played earlier in the season, for the benefit of divisional selectors, though the present structure, whereby divisional and county matches are played at the same time, is fixed for the next two seasons.

Women in television spotlight

By DAVID HANDS

AN ENGLAND team showing enviably little change over the last few seasons will seek its third successive win over Wales in the women's international at Waterloo on Sunday.

Recognition of the growth of interest in the women's game is indicated by the presence of S4C (the Welsh Channel Four) television cameras and the sponsorship of Mowlem, the construction company.

England won the 1989 fixture by the comfortable margin of 38-4 and a host of players from that team reappear this weekend, among them Cheryl Stennett, the Wasps wing, who scored three tries.

Last year, Wales proved far more difficult to overcome at Neath, going down only by 18-12, a scoreline which included two tries for Gill Burns, the England No. 8, now playing at her home club.

Welsh preparations over the last month have included a trial match against Bath and an encounter with a Scottish Clubs XV. Both countries are preparing for the women's World Cup, to be played in Wales during April, a tournament strengthened by the confirmation of New Zealand's participation.

With that in mind, it is hoped that the B teams from England and Wales will meet next month.

ENGLAND: J Mitchell (Saracens); C Stennett (Wasps), S Robson (Saracens), C Willetts (Wasps), D Francis (Richmond); K Almond (Wasps, captain), E Mitchell (Saracens); J Mangham (Waterloo), S Dorrington (Richmond), S Ewing (Wasps), J Ross (Richmond), H Stirrup (Wasps), S Wenn (Clifton), C Isherwood (Richmond), G Burns (Waterloo).

WALES: L Brooks (Newport); P George (Newport), P Evans (Swansea Uplands), E Davies (Richmond), S Phillips (Cardigan); A Bennett (Saracens), E Ladd (Cardigan); B Davies (Wasps), B Evans (Cardiff Institute of HE), M-L Bowen (Newport), H Carey (Swansea Uplands), K Eaves (Newport), S Glavin (Swansea Uplands), S Butler (Richmond), L Burgess (Saracens, captain).

Referee: D Leslie (Manchester).

Campbell top of form at Merchant's

SCHOOLS RUGBY
by MICHAEL STEVENSON

MERCHANT Taylors', Crosby, coached by the former England and Lions wing, Mike Slemen, have enjoyed an outstanding season. They lost to Rossall in September, after which they were unbeaten until January 6, when they lost to King's Hospital School, Dublin. Merchant's have scored 303 points to 104 conceded.

It has been a team effort; no representative honours have been won. Few victories will have given greater pleasure than those against Wirral GS (16-6), Birkenhead (16-0), Leeds GS (17-13) and Stonyhurst (43-6). Their leading try scorer was the No. 8, Ben Yarwood, with seven; the stand-off half, Jamie Campbell, scored 123 points.

ULSTER BANKS CUP: Ballymena 38, Antrim GS 0; Campbell 13, Banbridge 6; Coleraine 28, Larne GS 0, Belfast RA 47, Grosvenor 3; Armagh Royal 0, Dalriada 6; Lurgan 3, Foyle 6; Down HS 8, Royal Belfast AI 20; Friends 13, Regent 19; Methodist CB 35, Sullivan Upper 3; Portadown 8, Portora 4; Limavady 10, Belfast HS 6; Wallace 4, Bangor GS 20.

● Nottingham HS, whose initial expectations were not especially high, have won nine games, lost five and drawn two, scoring 231 points to 157 conceded. They were beaten by Solihull (22-9), Worksop (10-14), Warwick (20-17), QEGS Wakefield (3-15) and RGS Worcester (8-0). Perhaps their best wins were against Rugby (9-6), Uppingham (3-6), Leeds GS (23-12) and Pocklington (7-6).

Green and Liley near the 300-point mark

ANDY Green and John Liley head the race towards 300 points for the English season as club secretaries watch the weather to see if this weekend's resumption of the Courage Clubs Championship will take place (David Hands writes). Green, the Exeter stand-off half, leads the way with 276 points and Liley, the Leicester full back, is five points behind.

However, judged on past results, Martin Strett, lying third with 227 points, may hope to profit most from Orrell's scheduled first-division game at Leicester tomorrow. The Midlands club has had the utmost difficulty against Orrell in recent seasons; last year, for example, Orrell won 33-10 with Strett kicking 15 points.

Leading points scorers

	Tl	T	C	PG	DG
A Green (Exeter)	276	8	51	43	3
J Liley (Leicester)	271	5	40	56	2
M Strett (Orrell)	227	4	62	29	0
R Ashworth (Havant)	222	3	38	44	2
S Blake (Redruth)	219	10	34	37	0
J Graves (Rosslyn Pk)	217	9	23	45	0
S Hodgkinson (Nottm)	209	3	28	47	0
M Rodgers (Sheffield)	190	12	20	33	1
P Grayson (Preston G)	185	1	26	41	2
D Pears (Harlequins)	180	1	31	35	3

LEADING TRY SCORERS: 24: D Cooke (West Hartlepool). 23: G Melville (Otley). 21: E Saunders (Rugby). 17: J Walker (Otley). LEADING DROP KICKERS: 16: R Mills (Walsall). 13: A Rimmer (Broughton Park).

● *Statistics by Results Unisys*

● Cardiff have written to the Welsh Rugby Union asking it to reinstate Paul Edwards, their banned prop forward.

Edwards was given a six-week suspension for "conduct prejudicial to the interest of the game" when he was identified on film stamping on a Swansea player in a Heineken League premier division match.

In a case of mistaken identity, Jonathan Humphreys, the Cardiff hooker, was sent off for the offence after being picked out by Richard Elliott, a touch judge. After watching a video of the incident, Elliott admitted it was not Humphreys who had used his boot and the hooker was subsequently allowed to resume his playing career.

Not so Edwards. He was held repsonsible after Elliott's report named him as the offender and he was banned for six weeks.

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Olympic ideal that remains a dream

By Bob Scott

PETER Price, the deputy leader of Sheffield City Council, wrote a letter to *The Times* recently on "bidding for the Olympic Games" and, as you would expect of a sound northern pragmatist, he was dismissive of the notion of a London bid.

But London, and the state of its possible bid, was not the point of his letter. The idea he put forward was that the nation would best be served by a bid on behalf of the whole of the north of England.

In my view, he proposed too wide a spread, but that does not destroy his central thesis.

Price pointed out that there were several new Olympic facilities being completed in Sheffield for the World Student Games in July and that between them the great northern cities, from Liverpool to Newcastle, could host an Olympic Games without huge new spending on infrastructure.

He also made the point that the cost of the new stadiums and arenas that would have to be built could be shared between various conurbations. This would have the benefit of spreading the expenditure and being more useful to more communities after the Games were over.

It is an idea that has had a certain amount of airing over the years, but I think the time has come when it should be seriously considered. I must point out that the only way it can go forward formally, for the next few years at least, is through the medium of Manchester's bid.

I say this not to seize the moral high ground but because the only way a British bid can go forward for the year 2000 is through Manchester or London. So it will in part be up to Manchester to consider whether it should spread its bid further afield.

At the moment, Manchester's is essentially a bid for the northwest of England. Liverpool and Chester play important parts in the overall scheme, with four sports in Liverpool and five set in the stunning countryside around Chester.

The centre of the bid, and this must remain, will be at the heart of the motorway network just to the west of Manchester.

We were concerned when we submitted our bid for 1996 that the distance between the Liverpool arena and the village in Manchester would worry the voting members. Not at all.

The travel time was what concerned them and this we regularly achieve in 25 minutes. Most members recognised that the Games were so big that a little bit of "spreading" was not only allowed, it was desirable to prevent the kind of congestion that is expected in Barcelona.

What the country must consider, particularly the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the Sports Council, is whether a spread to Sheffield in the east to match a spread to Liverpool in the west is a good idea.

Newcastle and Nottingham, and certainly Birmingham, are too far away, but Sheffield is close.

There will be two particular problems. First is the absolute Olympic rule laid down in the charter that the Games are awarded to a city. It does not matter that we all know that the Los Angeles Games were really the Games of Southern California.

There is no point in Britain entering a race and then immediately trying to change the rules before the "off". It is the civic authority of one city, in conjunction with the National Olympic Committee of that country, that bids for the Games.

The second problem is the problem of the "ideal" of the compact Games, where all the sports venues are within easy distance of the village. This has never been, and never will be, achieved, but for some it remains the dream.

Even though it would probably be quicker to travel from Manchester to Sheffield than it would be to go from the village to the main stadium in Barcelona, if the traffic is anything like it was last year, we will have to overcome the criticism of dispersal.

The advantages could be enormous. First, Sheffield has some genuinely Olympic facilities and it would perhaps be foolish to replicate all of them only 35 minutes away. Second, with proper planning and burden sharing, which must be discussed with the BOA and the Sports Council, the whole of Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire could enthusiastically get behind a bid which would truly represent the country.

The government might like it, the sports authorities might like it, but what we have to do is persuade the International Olympic Committee to like it.

The overwhelming need is for people of good will, who have the national health of sport at heart, to come together to discuss such a plan and create the proper strategy. Price's letter may have started something.

● *Bob Scott is the chairman of the Manchester Olympic Bid 2000 Committee.*

SNOOKER

Hendry blows his chance of third successive century

By Steve Acteson

ONLY two players, Steve Davis and Doug Mountjoy, have made three consecutive centuries in tournament play. The world champion, Stephen Hendry, came close to joining them in beating Tony Meo 5-0 to reach the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley yesterday.

Having got off to a flying start with runs of 131 and 114, the second being his hundredth hundred as a professional, he was on 66 in the third frame when "one careless positional shot" cost him his chance.

Hendry was still on course to become the first player to win this title three times in succession after further breaks of 52, 35 and 43 took him in to the last four, where he meets either Jimmy White or Steve James, who played each other last night.

Meo made only four balls in the first three frames and just 18 in the entire match, so great was Hendry's domination.

Meanwhile, it would be both impudent and imprudent to suggest that Davis can no longer be considered one of the leading challengers for the world or any other title, but it is tempting to do so.

In the past decade he won more than 50 titles, including the world championship six times. He has, however, not won a ranking title in 15 months while surrendering the world crown and the world No. 1 position to Hendry.

Davis, aged 33, was both famed and feared for his rock-hard approach. An audience was something to give a brief bow to at the start and end of matches, an opponent was there to be clinically beaten with no apparent show of emotion.

In losing to the world No. 13, Neal Foulds, 5-4 after being 4-2 up, Davis uncharacteristically punched the air when sinking important shots and actually grinned at the audience when one of its members coughed or when he missed a sitter.

At his press conference he bordered on the spiteful and the unrealistic saying: "Don't judge me on past results. I'm bored with people talking about how long it is since I last won a title. It is the press who look at it that way. I look at it on a day-to-day basis. I have absolutely no interest in being admired for what I have done, only for what I'm going to do."

Foulds said: "He used to be robot-like but he was much more emotional than usual and that gave me confidence. When he used to march round the table as if being operated by remote control he was frightening, but now it's as if he doesn't automatically believe he is favourite to win matches and that's almost unbelievable."

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: S Hendry (Scot) bt A Meo (Eng), 5-0. Wednesday's late second round result: N Foulds (Eng) bt S Davis (Eng), 5-4.

SKIING

Beleaguered Russi says downhill has turned the corner

From a Special Correspondent, Val d'Isère, France

A YEAR before the Olympic downhill, and after two training runs on the spectacular "la Face" course, designed by Bernhard Russi, racers are fiercely divided about joining a new era of downhill racing.

The veterans raised on speed-induced adrenalin say it is not a real downhill, and the technical skiers are expecting glory days on the most spectacular 2,905 metres of downhill racing available.

Russi, an Olympic gold medal winner and world downhill champion of the early Seventies, has carved "la Face" into the sheer rock of Bellevarde mountain, allowing spectators below to follow 70 per cent of the race.

But the pitch of the mountain is so steep that Russi has used 26 curves, unloved by the speed merchants used to charging classics like Wengen at speeds of up to 140km. "You could speed it up by shaving the jumps, but the character of the course will not – and must not – change," Russi said. "If you want to hold on to downhill racing, then you have to go in this direction." Russi said his course had everything – the "Mausfalle and Hausbergkante from Kitzbühel and the most challenging parts of Wengen and other classics".

"Downhillers today can go much tighter into the curves than even five years ago. They have more physical strength, better technique and better material," Russi said.

"This is one of the most difficult downhills, but one of the safest. But it is also the one that leaves racers with the most empty legs."

Leonard Stock, of Austria, said it was "no downhill". Daniel Mahrer, of Switzerland, said it was too slow, too steep and had too many curves. "It is so slow, you can count the spectators on the way down," Mahrer said.

But for every groan there was a cheer, and Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, the overall leader in the World Cup, said it was the best downhill he knew. Girardelli was undeterred by a tumble in training on Wednesday.

Rob Boyd, of Canada, and Atle Skaardal, of Norway, both like the idea of trying something new. "There's not much gliding, but it's boring to glide," Skaardal said.

Predictably, training on Tuesday was dominated by the French, with six of their number in the top 15. They raced here last March in their national championships and know the course.

Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, the world downhill champion, and Stefan Eberharter, of Austria, the world super-giant slalom champion, switched to shorter skis and chalked up the fastest times during practice sessions yesterday.

The third run yesterday was abandoned when light snowfall and overcast skies restricted vision on a course particularly vulnerable to weather conditions.

Two World Cup downhills, today and tomorrow, and a super giant slalom, on Sunday, are planned on "la Face". Racers then have 51 weeks to contemplate its perils before returning to try for the Olympic gold.

Merle can close on absent Kronberger

CAROLE Merle, of France, will benefit from the absence of the injured World Cup overall leader, Petra Kronberger, when she bids for vital points in three races in Germany this weekend.

While Kronberger's 184-point lead over Merle in the overall rankings looks secure, today's downhill and tomorrow's super-giant slalom in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, and a giant slalom in Zwiesel on Sunday, provide a superb opportunity for her challengers to match her points totals in the separate disciplines.

The Austrian, who is expected to be out of action for several weeks after injuring her knee in a fall at the world championships in Saalbach last month, is 32 points ahead of second-placed Merle in the super-giant slalom standings.

Merle, aged 27, boosted by her silver medal in the event in Saalbach, is thought to have an outstanding chance to close the gap in the fourth race of the season.

In the downhill placings, third-placed Merle has also become the front-runner, since second-placed Katrin Gutensohn, of Germany, was forced out of action for the rest of the season after tearing ligaments at the world championships.

Davidson takes a third title

From Ian Sweet
in Megeve

THE first of the three Duchess of York trophies at the British Services international Alpine championships here was won yesterday when Jenny Davidson, of the Royal Air Force, won her third event, in the super giant slalom, and also took the overall combined title.

The super giant slalom is a new event to these championships, and it was fitting that it should decide the outcome of the women's inter-services competition. Davidson's success not only helped her team to win the new super giant slalom team trophy, but also snatch the inter-services trophy.

The super giant slalom course, with some 44 gates and 529 metres of vertical drop in just over two kilometres, was testing, especially with fresh snow and temperatures of -30C. The French, this time the newcomers from the Army, again produced the fastest times. Samuel Tissot, who won the giant slalom last Sunday, was skiing at No. 87, but this did not prevent him from taking the men's open super giant slalom title.

Hugh Hutchison, the defending champion from the Army, won the new inter-service super giant slalom title by 0.4sec from Craig Bonnington, of the RAF.

RESULTS: Men: Open super giant slalom: 1, S Tissot (French Army), 1min 52.22sec; 2, D Bantin (French Air Force), 1:53.52; 3, J Allard (French Army), 1:54.62. Inter-service super giant slalom: 1, H Hutchison (Army), 1:57.07; 2, C Bonnington (RAF), 1:57.49; 3, G Crawford (Army), 1:59.69. Women: Super giant slalom: 1, J Davidson (RAF), 2min 14.26sec; 2, T McQuoid (Army), 2:14.80; 3, S Robinson (RAF), 2:15.77. Team (super giant slalom and inter-service Trophy): 1, RAF; 2, Army; 3, Royal Navy.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	+ temp °C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA								
Igls	5	50	good	crust	worn	fair	-14	4/2
Good skiing on upper slopes, very cold								
Mayrhofen	50	70	good	varied	worn	fine	0	7/2
Good skiing throughout resort								
Schladming	10	55	good	varied	good	fine	-5	7/2
New snow on firm base giving good skiing								
FRANCE								
Chamonix	40	235	good	moguls	icy	snow	-8	7/2
Good piste skiing on new snow								
Flaine	37	175	fair	varied	fair	snow	1	7/2
Ski conditions improving with fresh snow								
La Plagne	95	180	good	varied	good	snow	0	7/2
New snow on hard base giving excellent skiing								
Les Arcs	80	225	good	powder	good	snow	-7	7/2
New snow on a hard base giving good skiing								
Val d'Isère	91	132	good	varied	fair	snow	-14	7/2
Good skiing, poor visibility								
ITALY								
Courmayeur	80	270	good	powder	—	snow	-15	7/2
Heavy snow giving excellent skiing conditions								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	65	70	good	varied	fair	fine	-12	5/2
Good skiing, some icy patches, no queues								
Davos	35	110	fair	varied	poor	fine	-8	5/2
Good skiing above 2,000m								
Mürren	45	115	good	powder	good	fair	-7	5/2
Good snow conditions, poor visibility								
St Moritz	60	110	good	crust	good	cloud	-11	5/2
Excellent skiing everywhere								
Villars	10	40	good	varied	icy	cloud	-14	7/2
Some new snow on very hard base								
Wengen	28	60	good	varied	good	cloud	-5	6/2
Excellent skiing on new snow								

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

GERMANY	L	U
Berchtesgaden	5	40
Garmisch	5	145
Hindelang	5	25
Oberstdorf	10	140

● Information supplied by the German Automobile Club.

NORWAY	L	U
Geilo	75	90
Hemsedal	50	60
Hovden	100	100
Lillehammer	100	110
Oslo	50	50
Voss	80	135

● Information supplied by the Norwegian National Tourist Office.

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 1,000ft. Runs: upper, middle, and lower, complete, hard base, icy. Access roads open: two chairlifts and most tows open. Glenshee: snow level, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 1,500ft. Runs: upper and lower, all complete, icy. Access roads open, some snow; one chairlift and most tows open. Lecht: snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 700ft. Runs: main, most complete. Access roads open, slight snow; most tows open. Aonach Mor: snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 2,000ft. Runs: upper and lower, complete, icy. Access roads clear; Gondola and most tows open. Glencoe: snow level, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 2,300ft. Runs: upper and lower, complete, icy. Access roads open, snow; most chairlifts and tows open.

Forecast: Mostly cloudy with frequent snow showers, some heavy. Winds will be east or northeasterly, fresh to strong touching gale force – drifting. Temperatures will be below freezing at all levels. Outlook: Staying cold and unsettled with further snow.

● Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

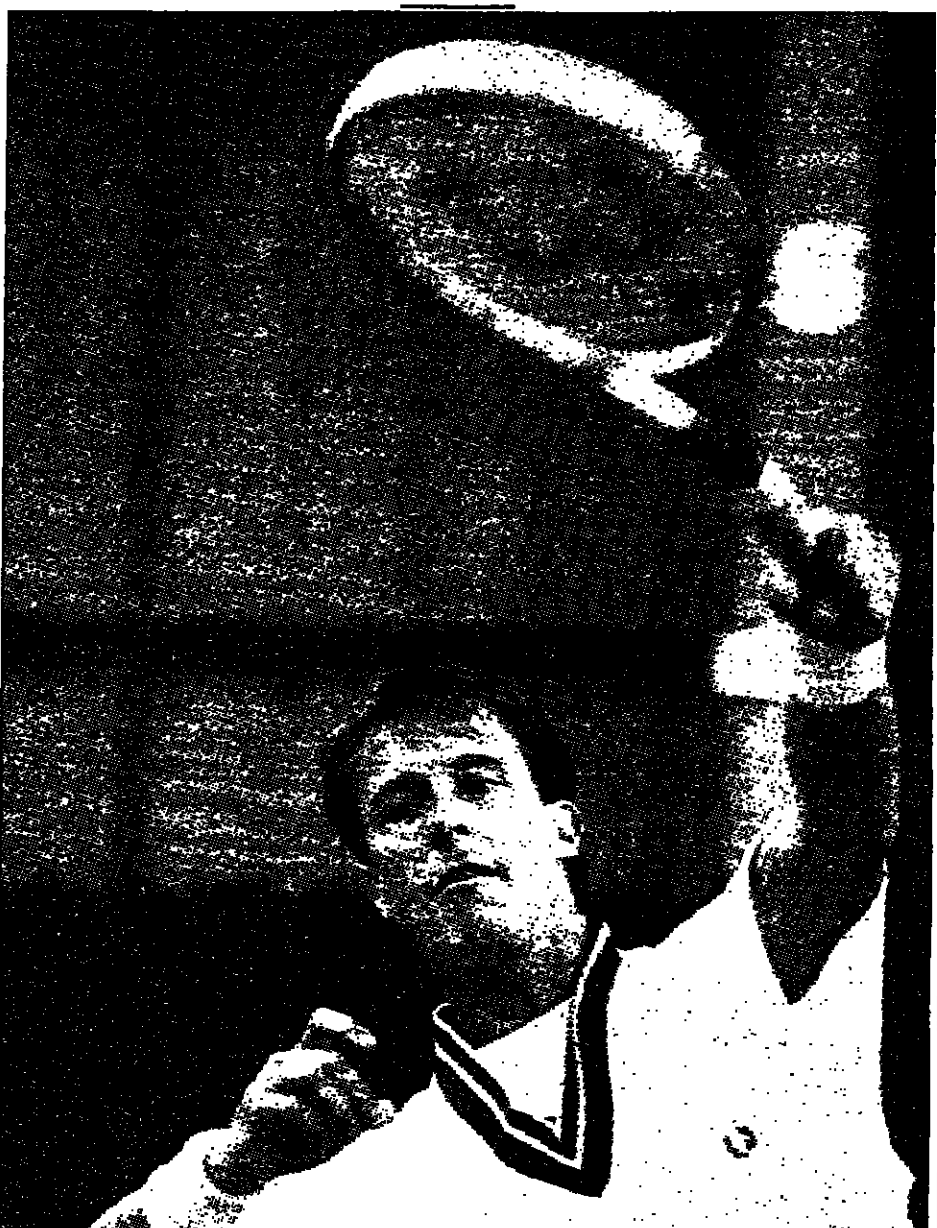
Recovery is complete for classic Svan

VAL DI FIEMME, Italy (Reuter) – Gunde Svan, of Sweden, who was unfit to ski through illness only two weeks ago, returned to form yesterday to win the 30km classic title at the world nordic championships.

Svan clocked an unofficial 1hr 16min 12.4sec after fending off a challenge from the defending champion, Vladimir Smirnov, of the Soviet Union, who took the silver medal.

RESULTS: Men's 30km classic: 1, G Svan (Sw), 1hr 16min 12.4sec; 2, V Smirnov (USSR), 1:16:17.3; 3, V Ulvang (Nor), 1:16:32.8; 4, T Langli (Nor), 1:16:40.8; 5, H Kirvesniemi (Fin), 1:17:31.6; 6, A Standlober (Austria), 1:17:41.5.

TENNIS



Forcing shot: Paul Hand in action during the LTA men's tournament at Telford

Caratti ends Lendl's hopes

MILAN (AFP) – Ivan Lendl was knocked out of the ATP Tour event here yesterday when he was beaten in three sets by Cristiano Caratti, of Italy, in the second round.

Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, defeated by Boris Becker in last month's Australian Open final, lost 6-4, 1-6, 7-6.

Caratti, who reached the quarter-finals at Melbourne before losing to Patrick McEnroe, clinched victory by 7-3 in the third-set tie-break.

RESULTS: First round: I Lendl (Cz) bt M Larsson (Swe), 7-5, 4-6, 7-5; D Nargiso (It) bt O Camporese (It), 7-5, 6-4; G Prpic (Yug) bt G Ivanisevic (Yug), 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. Second round: A Krickstein (US) bt T Champion (Fr), 4-0, ret; J Hlasek (Switz) bt A Jarryd (Swe), 6-3, 0-6, 6-4; C-U Steeb (Ger) bt K Novacek (Cz), 4-6, 7-6, 6-4; C Caratti (It) bt Lendl, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6; J Gunnarsson (Swe) bt A Chesnokov (USSR), 6-4, 6-3.

● **WELLINGTON:** Louise Field, of Australia, scored a suprising straight-sets victory over the defending champion, Wiltrud Probst, in the second round of the Fernleaf Classic women's championship yesterday (AP reports).

Field, ranked 130th in the world, used consistently powerful ground strokes to beat the German, seeded No. 2, 6-4, 6-3 and advance to the last eight.

The top seed, Leila Meshki, of the Soviet Union, also got through, with a 6-3, 7-6 victory over Cammy MacGregor, of the United States.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: L Meskhi (USSR) bt C MacGregor (US), 6-3, 7-6; E Sviglerova (Cz) bt C Bartos (Switz), 6-1, 7-5; K Quentrec (Fr) bt M Oremans (Neth), 6-4, 1-6, 7-5; L Field (Aus) bt W Probst (Ger), 6-4, 6-3.

HOCKEY

England have high hopes of a medal

By Sydney Friskin

FOUR years ago, the first world indoor championship, due to be held at Canberra, Australia, was cancelled because of a lack of support. Now, the Scottish Hockey Union has brought together eight teams for the world invitation indoor classic, starting today at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, and ending on Sunday.

There is a five-strong European challenge, and in spite of the absence of Germany and the Netherlands, the entry list still looks attractive, with Austria, Canada, Scotland and Spain making up pool A, and Australia, England, France and the United States forming pool B.

England, led by Richard Leman, have already played Australia twice in London, winning 7-4 and drawing 7-7. Since then, Australia have lost their coach, Bill Greenlees, who has returned home for personal reasons, leaving Larry McIntosh, the captain, to take over his duties.

England, who looked commendably sharp in the two matches at Dulwich College, should qualify for the semi-finals. They could even win a medal, but, like Australia, they will be seriously threatened by France for a place in the last four.

The United States, the unknown factor in this pool, are learning fast under the guidance of their Cheshire-born manager, Peter Jones.

Canada have made rapid strides in the indoor game, but should have difficulty getting past Austria, Scotland and Spain. Scotland, coached by Billy McPherson, have chosen an experienced side. Four of their players – Cuthill, the captain, Christie, Golden and Cox – are members of Menzieshill, recent winners of the Glenfiddich international tournament in Glasgow.

Spain, winners of the HDM tournament at The Hague, should be strong contenders.

TODAY'S PROGRAMME: Australia v United States (11.30am); France v England (12.30pm); Canada v Spain (1.30pm); Scotland v Austria (2.30pm); opening ceremony (3.30pm); England v United States (4.00pm); Australia v France (5.00pm); Austria v Canada (6.00pm); Spain v Scotland (7.00pm).

YACHTING

Wind springs up to get fleet under way again

By Barry Pickthall

AFTER 24 hours of calms, the winds returned with a vengeance yesterday as the leading competitors in the BOC single-handed round the world race closed on the southern tip of New Zealand, the last landmark before Cape Horn on this third stage, to Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Generali Concorde, Alain Gautier's French 60-footer, was again making most of the 40-knot winds, setting an average of 13.7 knots to maintain a 30-mile margin over Christophe Auguin.

Kanga Birtles, of Australia, sailing Jarken Yacht Builders, moved into fifth place, but faces a cold time in the Southern Ocean after leaving his seaboots in Sydney.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 09.40 GMT yesterday, with miles to *Punta del Este, Uruguay*): Class 1: 1, Generali Concorde (A Gautier, Fr), 5,647 miles; 2, Groupe Sceta (C Auguin, Fr), 5,679; 3, Allied Bank (J Martin, SA), 5,690; 4, Credit Agricole (P Jeantot, Fr), 5,697; 5, Jarken (K Birtles, Aus), 5,722; 6, Innkeeper (D Adams, Aus), 5,735; 7, Alba Regia (N Fa, Hun) 5,738; equal 8, Duracell (M Plant, US), and Ecureuil PC (I Autissier, Fr), 5,738; 10, Grinaker (B Reed, SA), 5,739; 11, BBV Expo '92 (J Ugarte, Sp), 5,753. Class 2: 1, Servant (Y Dupasquier, Fr), 5,780; 2, Buttercup (D McIntyre, Aus), 5,791; 3, Project City Kids (J Boye, US), 5,796; 4, New Spirit of Ipswich (J Hall, GB), 5,810. Corinthian class: 1, Volcano (P Thackaberry, US), 5,869; 2, Shutendohji (M Saito, Japan), 5,893; 3, Global Exposure (R Davie, GB), 5,986; 4, Sebago (H Roth, US), 6,523.

● Congere, Bevin Koeppel's Maxi, which took line honours in the Pineapple Cup race from Miami to Montego Bay, has been declared IOR class winner.

RESULTS: Pineapple Cup: Montego Bay race: IOR class (corrected time): 1, Congere (B Koeppel), 3 days 19hr 01min 20sec; 2, Challenge America (T Turner Jr), 3:28:16:29; 3, Alimony (C Callaghan), 4:03:18:20. PHRF (corrected time): 1, Merrythought (J King), 3 days 11hr 11min 05sec; 2, Gulvain Rogers/Schyberg, 3:12:44:06; 3, Magnolia (B Gillette), 3:18:55:55.

GOLF

Davis must master his disappointment

From Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent
Port Douglas, Queensland

FOR Rodger Davis, the realisation that when next he plays in a major championship he will be 40 years old must inevitably increase his frustration at not being given an invitation to the Masters at Augusta National in April.

Davis, who will be 40 in May, will rub shoulders again with compatriots Greg Norman, the 1986 Open champion, and Wayne Grady, who won the US PGA title last year, in the Mirage skins tournament starting here tomorrow, well aware that he may be destined not to win a major championship himself.

The stark reality that he might fail to aspire to the highest honours which golf offers was brought more firmly home when he was again overlooked for the Masters, despite being No. 1 on the Australian Order of Merit, and having enjoyed in 1990 his most lucrative season in Europe.

Davis won twice before the middle of June, at which time he led the Volvo Order of Merit, but he managed only two top ten finishes in his last 13 events, by which time he had fallen to ninth place. Even so, he earned a personal record of £283,308.

The prospect of Davis emulating compatriots Peter Thomson (1962 and 1965), Bruce Devlin (1966) and Norman (1980) by being the leading money-winner in Europe evaporated from the moment that he took 82 in the first round of the Open at St Andrews.

It was his highest score during a European season in which his stroke average was 70.76.

Davis had been so confident of being No. 1 that he invested a sizeable sum with the bookmakers at 33-1. It was not to be. Even so, he began this year with an excellent victory in the Sanctuary Cove Open in Australia, with which he retained his place in the top 25 in the Sony world rankings.

That was Davis's fifteenth victory in Australia, although he would be the first to confess that his win in the PGA Championship at Wentworth in 1986 remains the most important of his career.

Davis has fond memories of that year, since he also helped Australia win the Dunhill Cup, enjoyed a 7 and 6 triumph against Severiano Ballesteros in the World Match Play Championship, and won the Australian Open in addition to two events in New Zealand, all of which suggests that Davis has little reason to shed any crocodile tears, especially when recalling his past. He delivered milk to help finance his early days on the tour, and ten years ago he lost Aus$250,000 in a hotel venture after quitting the game because of a severe attack of the putting yips.

Davis has no worries now in terms of financial security, but he still has unfinished business as far as his career record is concerned.

His immediate concern is to come out ahead of Norman, Grady and Ian Baker-Finch this weekend. The Open Championship, at Royal Birkdale, will, however, take on even more significance for him now that he is the only player in the top 25 of the world rankings to have been excluded from the US Masters.

Langer beats back pain

HONG KONG (Reuter) – Bernhard Langer, of Germany, overcame severe back pain to shoot an impressive six-under-par 65 in the first round of the Hong Kong Open yesterday.

His courageous display gave him a share of second place, a shot behind the outright leader, Craig McClellan, of the United States. South Korea's leading player Choi Sang-Ho, putted brilliantly to share second place with Langer.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES: 64: C McClellan (US). 65: B Langer (Ger), Choi Sang-Ho (S Kor). 67: Chen Tze-Ming (Taiwan), M Cunning (US), R Farley (Aus), T Gibson (Can), S Jurgensen (US), Lu Wen-ter (Taiwan), J O'Neill (US), J Rasmussen (Den), S Taylor (US).

Prosser strikes form

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) – Sally Prosser, of Britain, scored a three-under-par 69 to lead on the first day of the women's Malaysian Open at Royal Selangor here yesterday. In her second year as a professional, Prosser, aged 27, from Surrey, hit four birdies.

Two strokes behind were Fayette Purser, of Australia, and Kelley Markette, of the United States, while Stefana Lehmeier, of Germany, Julie Larsen, of the United States, and Young Mee-Lee, of South Korea, were on 72.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES: 69: S Prosser (GB). 71: F Purser (Aus), K Markette (US). 72: S Lehmeier (Ger), Young Mee-Lee (S Kor), J Larsen (US). 73: K Lunn (Aus), L Mills (US), M Lundberg (Swe), S Shudwick (GB), B Helbig (Ger), C Wen-Lin (Taiwan), A Fernando (Can), S Sato (US), P Negela, S Hirase, Y Akashi, Y Ito (all Japan), Huang Yu Chen (Taiwan).

STUDENT SPORT

First national leagues formulated

By Mark Herbert

FIRST plans for national leagues will be revealed to students in Sheffield on February 18. Since being given approval to start cross-sector competitions, involving the colleges, polytechnics and universities, the working party of the British Students Sports Federation has created regional leagues in five sports – hockey (men's and women's), netball, badminton, squash rackets and table tennis – which will commence in 1991-2.

It is hoped that existing competitions will eventually become absorbed into the national league, or exist as separate knockout events.

● Bad weather wiped out most of Wednesday's British polytechnics quarter-finals. All the rugby union events were affected, while Portsmouth beat Oxford on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the only football match played. The British universities squash rackets championship and a triangular swimming tournament scheduled for Warwick University at the weekend have been postponed.

BPSA RESULTS: Football: Oxford 1, Portsmouth 1 (Portsmouth won 3-4 on penalties). Netball: Portsmouth 31, Newcastle 26; Oxford 27, Portsmouth 27.

An icy blast from Siberia via the Republic of Ireland for the Football Association of Wales

Referees criticised for not acting on professional advice

By Clive White

THE laudable intention of the Football Association of Wales (FAW) to keep Wednesday's international against the Republic of Ireland on what, on a frozen night, passed for "home soil", turned out to be hopelessly misguided, as everyone, with the exception of the FAW, had suspected it was.

The purpose of the match, which the Republic won 3-0, was to give the two teams a thorough workout before their European championship ties next month. As Jack Charlton, the Republic's manager, rightly said: "Ground advantage was immaterial. In the event, both managers might just as well have kitted their players out in skates and thrown a puck on to the Racecourse Ground for all the good it did them as footballers."

Long before this week's icy blast from Siberia, it had been thought that the FAW would be financially better off staging its games in Liverpool. What with local interest in the likes of Ian Rush and Kevin Ratcliffe, the FAW had been right to resist such temptation.

But Everton's offer to stage the game on their heated pitch was exceptional. There was little chance of a dangerous precedent being set since, with the venue being offered at such late notice and its being an all-ticket match, the crowd would have been much the same as Wrexham's understandably disappointing attendance of 9,168. At least the Welsh would have been able to maintain their record of never having lost to the Republic on home soil.

Both managers, who requested that the game be called off, thought that referees, on such occasions, should listen to the advice of the professionals, particularly those with playing experience.

Terry Yorath, the Wales manager, recounted how Charlton had said to Fred McKnight, the Northern Ireland referee, beforehand: "Let you and me put on boots, go out there, and you chase me around for five minutes and see what it's like". Yorath said that McKnight just looked at Charlton and said: "Get out." "I laughed, because the ref would have caught him," Yorath said.

However much Charlton and Yorath may have felt responsible for the safety of their players — "if Ian Rush, say, had been badly injured, his manager would have crucified me", Yorath said — the ultimate responsibility is, of course, with the referee.

Whether the pitch was fit for football or not, it was not worth watching despite the valiant efforts of both sets of players to make a gentle game of it. Not a few Welshmen, I would estimate, would take exception to the view of Alun Evans, the FAW secretary, who did not feel that "any spectators went home unhappy".

As a morale-booster for the Republic before their game against England at Wembley, it cannot have done any harm, I suppose. Niall Quinn, who scored two goals, was the most obvious beneficiary. "Until I scored, I was one of those players begging the referee to call it off," he said. Quinn, a prolific goalscorer this season for Manchester City, seems to have stepped out of the shadows at international as well as club level.

Yorath foresees England and the Republic cancelling each other out for a third time. "England will try to play football and the Republic will try to stop them from doing so. Stalemate," he said. "People like Gascoigne and Robson will pick up balls deep in their own half but it will be a waste of time because there will be ten Irishmen behind the ball. Jack loves that."

Winter sports

Tokyo — More than 1,000 competitors and officials from 29 countries will take part in the Universiade, the Winter University Games, in Sapporo from March 2 to 10. Some of the skiing will be in Furano. The athletes will compete in alpine and cross-country skiing, ski jumping, figure skating, ice hockey and speed skating.

Back in charge: Macari takes stock of new surroundings at Birmingham City's St Andrews ground yesterday

Birmingham opt for Macari

By Dennis Shaw

LOU Macari returned to football yesterday, as manager of Birmingham City, and talked for the first time about the lessons he had learned from his year in exile.

Macari resigned from West Ham United because of the controversy over gambling and Inland Revenue irregularities in his previous post at Swindon Town. He has remained silent on his problems since.

After his St Andrew's appointment, however, as successor to his fellow Scot, Dave Mackay, he spoke of the "treachery" of Swindon and his "big, big mistake" at leaving Upton Park when a Sunday newspaper inquiry was at its height.

The former Manchester United and Scotland forward is due to appear before Malmesbury magistrates on April 8, along with his former chairman at Swindon, Brian Hillier, for committal to Crown Court in connection with tax charges.

The Birmingham chairman, Samesh Kumar, appointed him despite these legal proceedings and after receiving clearance from the Football Assocation.

"After the kind of 12 months I have had you get harder," Macari said. "I used to trust everyone and I don't any longer, which is rather sad."

Macari, who has joined Birmingham without a contract, is clearly bitter at the way he was publicly connected with irregularities, but praised the way West Ham had dealt with their unexpected involvement.

"The support I received from the chairman and directors got ridiculous," he said "They just told me to ignore the publicity and soldier on but I decided to leave.

"It was a big, big mistake and I have regretted it ever since. In the last couple of months, I have got used to it, but my family get distressed when people keep on resurrecting it."

Now Macari hopes to be given a fresh start by the public in attempting to steer the troubled city club from the third division back to the first without the protection of a contract.

"People go on contracts because they are looking for big pay-off when they leave," Macari said. "I was on a contract at West Ham but left without a settlement, so what's the point. I like to back my own judgment and when I came here I got the feeling that the club could do something." Macari will appoint an assistant soon.

Macari, aged 41, was fined £1,000 by an FA Disciplinary Commission when found guilty of unauthorised betting. He and Hillier were yesterday granted conditional bail by Chippenham magistrates and will appear before Malmesbury magistrates on April 8 for committal proceedings.

Smile fades as money casts its shadow over Cameroon

SIMON BARNES

IT WAS a night of historic dreadfulness. Bad weather, bad football, bad vibes. Cameroon was the team of the World Cup: the only team that gave unalloyed joy throughout that flat and fearful competition.

They "put a smile on the face of football", in the naive cliché of the summer: but the fantasies about happy-go-lucky Africans vanished in a sour clash of footballing cultures that has lasted three days.

The Cameroon side played go-through-the-motions football, and Lord, it was dire stuff. Occasional flickers brought back brief memories of the summer when the Force was with them: but all they were really interested in was damage limitation.

And money, of course. People are utterly outraged by this. Who do these happy-go-lucky Africans think they are? The anger has, naturally centred around Roger Milla, who wanted a personal fee of £50,000 for playing in his accustomed role as hypersub. This elicited a reaction of pure, self-righteous horror.

Admittedly, it was not desperately edifying. The pre-match period was dominated by Milla rumours: he's playing; oh no he's not; oh yes he is. The team-list appeared 20 minutes before kick-off: hurrah, he was playing. Eighteen minutes later, we were told to strike his name from the list. And of course, he never showed.

The team manager, Philippe Redon, a personal friend of his, did ask him if he wanted to tell us why. But no. "I am disappointed, of course," Redon said. "But he makes his own decisions. He is an adult."

It is clear that the Cameroon side has lost its oomph. Football is the most emotional of team games, and the team has lost the momentum of passionate self-belief that carried them so preposterously, so adventurously, to the quarter-finals of the World Cup.

Things seem to have fallen apart. Money rows have shaken everybody. Internal bickerings in the team and resentment of Milla's star status have made things worse. Their Siberian coach, Valeri Nepomniachi, left after the World Cup finals, also angry about money. The team recently lost 6-1 to Norway, not evidence of a team with high morale.

It is all as sad as it is inevitable. We of the developed world look to Africa for what we have lost, for an unfathomable beauty, for meaning. Africans turn to the developed world for what they have never had: material goods, material comfort. The Third World's eagerness to embrace all the corruption the West can offer is as horrifying as it is inevitable.

The Milla Incident is just a tiny, trivial example of this. But I don't see any reason for the English football to get all hoity-toity. Milla looks to the football of the developed world and sees a gigantic honeypot: all the Euro-superstars get a lick, so why, he feels, shouldn't he?

Diego Maradona was paid £90,000 to turn up for the Football League centenary match, an occasion every bit as woeful as Wednesday's game. Top European players routinely receive signing-on fees that would make you rich for life in Yaounde.

Milla was trying it on. He knew the system was corrupt, but didn't know how to play it. That has given everyone a chance to get pompous: "We will not be held to ransom," the FA said. English football was happy to be held to ransom by Maradona. One law for old hands at corruption: another for happy-go-lucky upstarts. You've got to know how to play the system, haven't you?

As the Cameroon team coach pulled out of the Wembley tunnel, Milla's face looked out impassively, having no urge to speak to us. One rejected scribe said: "He will regret this night in 20 years' time."

It is possible. On the other hand, it is equally possible that he will not give a damn about the nineteeth century sporting traditions of a country that has little to do with his own. His concerns might just be more related to Africa.

Africa is where the future of football can be found, and the future of much else besides. But everything to do with the future of Africa is acutely difficult, acutely painful. The developed world has so much: and so much of Africa is so eager for its corruption.

Roxburgh seeking a cleaner finish

By Roddy Forsyth

THE spectre of last summer's World Cup finals, and, in particular, the game against Costa Rica that Scotland lost 1-0, has returned to haunt Andy Roxburgh after the Scots were beaten by the same margin in Wednesday evening's match with the Soviet Union at Ibrox.

The inability to turn immense tracts of possession and large numbers of scoring opportunities into goals was the most notable characteristic of both matches, at least from the Scottish point of view. Against Costa Rica, the Scots managed 19 shots on target, and against the Soviet Union, they directed 17 at the visitors' goal.

In addition, the opposition were offered considerably fewer glimpses of the net, yet each managed the single conversion required to settle the contest.

Roxburgh, who got no sleep on Wednesday night because of a stomach virus that also virulently affected his assistant, Craig Brown, said yesterday: "I am not especially concerned with our defensive record, because, on the whole, other teams find it difficult to get past us. If you score one against Scotland, you've done about as well as most people manage.

"Against the Soviet Union we were disciplined until the final minutes, when we lost our concentration because we had decided the match was there to be won, which indeed it was. We didn't mind our centre backs charging upfield and, as a matter of fact, we had instructed them to do just that, but we didn't ask them to do it at the same time.

"Having said that, there were four players between Kuznetsov and the goal when he got his scoring shot in and that goal was a case of excellent striking ability on his part. No, it is our inability to convert chances which worries me. We must get that right for the next match against Bulgaria."

Roxburgh's forward resources are perpetually stretched, but he is enduring a particularly lean year. Maurice Johnston cannot be considered, at his own request, while his clubmate McCoist, is on Rangers's substitutes bench — a situation which , if it continues, will almost certainly rule him out of a starting place against the Bulgarians when they come to Glasgow for the match which could decide whether Scotland qualify for the finals of the European championship for the first time.

At least, when he contemplated the form of Gordon Strachan, the national coach had something to be bright about. "I am not surprised that he performed so well or that, even at his age, he finished the match as strongly as he started it. Gordon pays great attention to his fitness because, I think, he woke one morning and realised that the sands are running out on him.

"He sleeps more at night than he used to and he is very careful about his diet. It's one of those psychological things, in that because he eats well he believes that everything else is well."

Whatever Strachan ate on Wednesday was probably better than anything offered to his colleagues, McLeish and Boyd, who were substituted because of stomach trouble. The Bulgarian observer in the stand must have been baffled at the sheer number of players deployed by the Scots in their last two matches, in Sofia and at Ibrox.

"They won't know who we're likely to field against them next month," Roxburgh said, adding wryly, "just like ourselves."

Wivenhoe realise their dream tie

By Walter Gammie

WIVENHOE Town, of the Vauxhall League, were this week handed a third-round draw in the FA Trophy — away to their Essex neighbours, Colchester United, of the GM Vauxhall Conference — that ten years ago they could have received only in their dreams.

Geoff Bennett, the Wivenhoe chairman, said: "It's tremendous. We've seen the gap narrow in the past five years, brought about by our rise in stature and Colchester's demise at the same time.

"Everybody in the club was looking forward, as a measurement of our success, to the day when we'd meet Colchester in a competitive match. We are there because we are in the last 16 in the country and we've got as good a chance of going to Wembley as them. I think Colchester will be in for a hell of a game."

Wivenhoe have strong Colchester links. Bennett himself played for them and the man who took up the reins as manager from him six months ago. Micky Cook, played more than 700 League matches for Colchester. John Leslie, who made more than 500 appearances for Colchester, and Phil Coleman are also old boys from Layer Road. Wivenhoe also boast experienced former Football League players in Lil Fuccillo, Paul Price and John Lacey.

Kettering, the Conference leaders, will be a big third-round home attraction for the winners of the replay between Hyde and Emley, which was called off on Wednesday night. Kettering knocked out the Trophy holders, Barrow, 2-1 after extra time in a replay at Rockingham Road on Tuesday.

Mark Taylor, of Southwick, scored the first seven goals in his club's 8-3 win over Worthing in a Vauxhall League first division match on Tuesday. The troubled Worthing side had led in the Sussex derby 2-1 at half-time.

Taylor, who doubled his goal tally for the season in 90 heady minutes, cut loose as the Worthing defence tired and lost discipline in a calamitous second half. He regularly stepped his way round Tony Pullibank, the goalkeeper, on the way to his haul. He received a consoling pat from a teammate as Paul Arscott, the substitute, was two yards closer to a cross and denied Taylor an eighth.

Joe Boon, the new Worthing manager, knows that his task of rescuing a side which has won only one match and drawn another all season is looking forlorn. "I cannot say yes, we are going to be relegated," he said. "That would mean we have given up and all we have got to do is play as we did in the first half on Tuesday and we will be able to get two or three wins together."

Boon was persuaded to return to Worthing by Jim Lelliott, who has stepped down from chairman to general manager to oversee a youth policy which he believes is the only way to restore the fortunes of a club that enjoyed considerable success under Barry Lloyd, the Brighton manager, in the early Eighties. Needing to pay back £60.000 in loans and £30.000 in debts, Lelliott is adamant that players cannot be paid.

Basildon and Finchley will leave the Vauxhall League next season. Basildon want to drop into the Essex Senior League for financial reasons and Finchley are merging with Wingate. Wingate Finchley will play in the South Midlands League, in which Wingate play.

Ruling may mean bigger tax bills

THE Inland Revenue has won a House of Lords ruling which has wide implications for players involved in expensive transfer deals.

The law lords' decision yesterday, that a transfer inducement paid to the former England goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, did not qualify for lower taxation under the "golden handshake" rules, could mean bigger income tax bills for players, and higher transfer fees.

Shilton was transfered from Nottingham Forest to Southampton in 1982 for £325,000. Part of the deal was that Forest would pay him £75,000 as an inducement to go. The deal also included payment to Shilton by Southampton of a further £80,000 over the next four years.

A High Court judge, and later the Court of Appeal, ruled that the £75,000 should be treated under "golden handshake" rules, which attract a lower rate of tax and would have meant a saving of around £20,000 to Shilton.

But yesterday's decision means that the £75,000 will be taxed as earnings from Southampton:

- PARIS (AFP) — Bernard Tapie, the chairman of French champions Olympique Marseilles, is to appeal against a one-year ban imposed last week by the French Football Federation for allegedly threatening referees.
- The Coventry City player-manager, Terry Butcher, is still awaiting a medical update from the orthopaedic surgeon who conducted keyhole surgery on his troublesome knee earlier this week. A cartilage was removed from his left knee immediately after the World Cup, but Butcher's appearances for Coventry have still been restricted.

Spectators to receive personal light meters

By Martin Searby

THE Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) is to provide light meters for the public at all county grounds this summer following a successful experiment at Lord's last year.

The technology is available to produce a portable unit which will give spectators the same information as that available to the umpires on their light meters, and the TCCB are deciding which of two options to use. The system at Lord's uses five vertical lights which illuminate as conditions deteriorate, and the one used at Old Trafford is like the top half of a clock face, with the indicator swinging from quarter-past (very good) to quarter-to (pitch black).

"Both options are calibrated to match the meters the umpires use and, with sensors possibly on the top of sightscreens, give the same background as the umpires see," Peter Smith, the board spokesman, said. "When, for instance, there are three bulbs lit you would expect the umpires to be consulting if there were fast or medium-paced bowlers on.

"If play has stopped it also gives a useful indication when conditions have improved and it was found at Lord's last summer that the public very much appreciated the information. If it was decided to go for the vertical row of light bulbs it is possible to increase the number to seven, which gives even better warning. Naturally, the decision about the fitness of conditions remains a matter solely for the umpires and this is intended only as a guide for the public."

The board has already approved the installation in principle at a cost of £20,000 for all 17 first-class counties and the portability of the system will allow those who use "out" grounds, such as Yorkshire, Kent, Essex and Glamorgan, to take it with them. It should be available for the first round of Refuge Assurance League fixtures on April 21 but will not be supplied to the universities.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

MELBOURNE: Women's 3km walk: K Saxby (Aus), 11min 51.26sec (world best).

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston Celtics 128, Charlotte Hornets 117; Miami Heat 134, New Jersey Nets 119; Philadelphia 76ers 108, Washington Bullets 100; Houston Rockets 111, Milwaukee Bucks 109; Utah Jazz 103, Phoenix Suns 99; Seattle Supersonics 107, Los Angeles Clippers 104; Sacramento Kings 97, Portland Trailblazers 98.

KORAC CUP: Quarter-finals: First leg: Juventut Badalona (Sp) 93, Estudiantes Madrid 79; Cantu (It) 80, Cibona Zagreb 70; Phonola Caserta (It) 92, Real Madrid 78; Barcelona 98, Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 87; KK Zadar (Yug) 84, Mulhouse (Fr) 84.

RONCHETTI CUP: Quarter-final series: Group A: Gemeaz Cusin Milan 67, Moldova Kishinev (USSR) 64; Orchies (Fr) 99, Zeljeznicar Sarajevo 67. Group B: Trogylos Priolo (It) 42, Dynamo Volgograd 72; Doma Valencia 96, Lokomotiv Sofia 51. Group C: Vicenza Estel (It) 98, Racing Club Paris 71. Group D: Aix-en-Provence 84, Donostia San Sebastian 45.

BOWLS

COUNTY MATCHES: Cambridgeshire 99, Eastern Counties 144; Hertfordshire 128, Surrey 123; Oxfordshire 125, Gloucestershire 109.

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCH: Belmont Abbey 22, St Cyre's 0.

SQUASH RACKETS

SCHOOLS MATCH: Lancing bt Eton, 4-1.

BOXING

YORK HALL, Bethnal Green: Professional tournament: British welterweight championship eliminator (10 rounds): Mickey Hughes (Croydon) bt Ian John-Lewis (Gillingham), rsc 9th rnd. Light-middle (8 rounds): Damien Denny (Ire) bt Newton Barnett (Camberwell), pts. Feather (6 rounds): Bobby Guynan (East Ham) bt Lee Fox (Chesterfield), pts. Light (6 rounds): Felix Kelly (Hammersmith) bt Wayne Windell (Sheffield), pts. Feather (6 rounds): Dennis Adams (Billericay) bt Neil Smith (Leicester), pts; Tim Driscoll (Bermondsey) bt Des Gargano (Manchester), pts.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Club Cricket Conference 213 (S N V Waterton 60), Newcastle Cavaliers (Aus) 214-8. Newcastle Cavaliers won by 2 wickets.

CYCLING

TOUR OF ANDALUSIA: Second stage (102.5 miles): 1, J Museeuw (Bel), 3hr 45min 27sec; 2, E Vanderaerden (Bel); 3, K Weltz (Den); 4, U Raab (Ger); 5, H Redant (Bel); 6, A van der Poel (Neth), all same time. Third stage (103.5 miles): 1, M Mauri (Sp), 3hr 48min 36sec; 2, R Lecleroq (Fr), 3:48:38; 3, A Camargo (Col), same time; 4, M Sergeant (Belgium), 3:48:43; 5, A van der Poel (Neth); 6, A Gutierrez (Sp), same time. Overall: 1, R Lozano (Sp), 12:42:40; 2, Van der Poel, 12:43:23; 3, A Kappes (Germany); 4, C Mottet (France); 5, Gutierrez; 6, F Etxabe (Spain), all same time. COPENHAGEN: Six-day race: Final positions: 1, J Veggerby (Den) and D Clark (Aus), 467pts; 2, R Soerensen (Den) and A Baffi (It), 384; 3, one lap behind, P Bincoletto (It) and B Holenweger (Switz), 419; 4, two laps behind, J Worre (Den) and U Freuler (Switz), 302; 5, seven laps behind, B Hom (Den) and E De Wilde (Bel), 241; 6, 15 laps behind, A Doyle (GB) and M Marcussen (Den), 158.

FOOTBALL

FA TROPHY: Second round: Postponed: Merthyr Tydfil v Gloucester.

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Postponed: Chelsea v Watford.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Postponed: Scunthorpe v York.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Australia 0, Czechoslovakia 2 (in Sydney).

Late results on Wednesday

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England 2, Cameroon 0; Scotland 0, Soviet Union 1; Wales 0, Republic of Ireland 3.

UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL: England 1, Denmark 5.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Fourth division: Hereford 0, Walsall 0; Scarborough 0, Rochdale 0. Postponed: Lincoln v Scunthorpe; Maidstone v Gillingham.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Postponed: Ross County v Meadowbank.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Czechoslovakia 2, Australia 0.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS TROPHY: Quarter-final: Luton 0, Sefton 4.

FA TROPHY: Second round replay: Postponed: Emley v Hyde; Horwich RMI v Gretna.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Manchester Utd 2, Derby County 1; Newcastle 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1. Postponed: Everton v Rotherham; Nottingham Forest v Leeds; Sheffield Utd v Liverpool. Second division: Hull 3, Grimsby 0, Preston 1, Oldham 3. Postponed: Barnsley v Port Vale; Bradford v Notts County; Burnley v Bolton; Stoke v Mansfield; West Bromwich v Middlesbrough; Wigan v Blackpool.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Loctite Cup: Second round: Postponed: Chesham v Walton and Hersham. AC Delco Cup: Fourth round: Postponed: Molesey v Woking.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballymena 1, Cliftonville 1. Roadferry League Cup: Second round: Ards 3, Queens Univ 0; Omagh Town 2, Dundela 1; Larne 2, Glenavon 1 (aet).

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-finals: First leg: Napoli 0, Bologna 1; Torino 1, Sampdoria 0; Bari 0, AC Milan 1.

SPANISH CUP: Second round: First leg: Coruna 2, Valencia 3; Español 2, Real Valladolid 1; Real Sociedad 1, Sporting Gijón 1; Sevilla 3, Cadiz 0; Logrones 0, Real Betis 0; Las Palmas 1, Barcelona 0.

GOLF

INDIAN WELLS, California: Bob Hope Classic: First round (US unless stated): 64: R Gamez. 65: C Pavin. 66: C Strange, R Tway, B McCallister, M Sullivan, M Springer, J McGovern, E Fiori, M O'Meara, B Claar. 67: M Hatalsky, F Couples, D Love III, J Gallagher, J Hallet, T Simpson, J Woodward.

COSTA DEL SOL: Torrequebrada Casino PGA pro-am tournament: Second round: 142: J Lower (Burton), 72, 70. 146: M Gallagher (Farthingstone), 71, 75. 149: D Craik (Frilford Heath), 75, 74; M Corless (Panshanger), 78, 71. 150: D Scott (Letham Grange), 76, 74. 151: D Dunk (Cannock Park), 73, 78.

SAN LORENZO, Algarve: Longshot–Hotel Dona Filipa tournament: Third round: 211: D Williams (Woburn). 212: M Studds (Manor). 214: J Sewell (Woburn). 222: I Mosey (unattached). 226: L Blacklock (Woburn); C Cox (W Essex). 228: D Clark (Christchurch). 229: N Brown (Mid Herts).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): St Louis Blues 5, Buffalo Sabres 4 (OT); Hartford Whalers 5, Edmonton Oilers 1; Chicago Black Hawks 8, Montreal Canadiens 3; New York Rangers 5, New York Islanders 2; Winnipeg Jets 6, Toronto Maple Leafs 5 (OT).

STOCKHOLM: Four-nation tournament: Soviet Union 9, Finland 8.

RUGBY FIVES

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Christ's Hospital Common Room 105, RFA 98; Christ's Hospital 125, Sutton Valence 110; Oxford University 71, Clifton College 81.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Merchant Taylors' 108, Clove Club 122.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Lacoste British Open Championship: Second round: J Male bt C Green, 15-3, 15-2, 15-3. Second round: J Prenn bt J Spurling, 15-7, 17-14, 15-4. Quarter-finals: S Hazell bt M Hue Williams, 15-7, 15-6, 15-11; N Smith bt S Davies, 15-3, 15-5, 15-6.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Eton (A Smith-Bingham and J Larken) bt Marlborough (T Stewart-Liberty and S Gidoomal), 15-8, 18-17, 18-15, 15-9.

REAL TENNIS

CLUB MATCH: Hampton Court bt Bristol and Bath, 2-1 (Hampton names first): M Sam and M Gilmore lost to T Buckley and J Bramen, 6-2, 2-6, 3-6; I Mathers and D Simmon bt P Probyn and P Stewart-Morgan, 6-4, 6-5; L Horricks and J Oelbrey bt T Hill and J Bramen, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

HOCKEY

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Charterhouse 1, Kingston GS 3, RGS High Wycombe 3, Hitchin 2.

TENNIS

TELFORD: LTA men's challenger tournament: Quarter-finals: P Nyborg (Swe) bt L Lavalle (Mex), 7-6, 7-6; J Siemerink (Neth) bt A Boetsch (Fr), 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

OSLO: Women's tournament: First round: C Dahlman (Swe) bt S Lohmann (Ger), 6-1, 7-6; N Herreman (Fr) bt A Jonsson (Nor), 6-2, 6-4; S Auer (Ger) bt K Hand (GB), 6-7, 7-6, 6-2; S Gerke (Ger) bt S Frankl (Ger), 6-2, 4-6, 6-1.

SAN FRANCISCO: Men's tournament: First round (US unless stated): D Cahill (Aus) bt T Hogstedt (Swe), 6-2, 6-2; W Masur (Aus) bt B Pearce, 6-1, 6-4; R Krishnan (India) bt A Rahunen (Fin), 7-6, 7-6; K Curren bt L Herrera (Mex), 4-6, 7-6, 6-2; D Goldie bt T Mayotte, 2-6, 7-6, 7-6; B Gilbert bt A Mronz (Ger), 6-3, 6-3; A Agassi bt U Riglewski (Ger), 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

ATHLETICS

Selectors face a different brief

By David Powell
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S cross-country selectors may discover how a pools panel feels if athletes are prevented by the weather from participating in tomorrow's trials for the world championships.

The races to select senior and junior teams of both sexes are expected to go ahead regardless of how severely the fields may be reduced by competitors unable to reach the venue at Down Grange, Basingstoke. Only extrememly harsh weather locally is likely to force the cancellation of the event.

If the line-ups are under strength Bud Baldaro, Britain's national cross-country coach, will urge a shift in emphasis from handing out places on the strength of results in the trials to allocating them on recent record: in other words ask the selectors to imagine, pools panel-style, how results in Basingstoke might have gone.

A local police spokesman said yesterday: "The snow is lying thick and the roads are atrocious." With athletes due to travel from all corners of Britain, it was being assumed that some would not make it to the most important event of the domestic winter.

Baldaro's view was that "it would be impossible to find an alternative date because we have the women's nationals the following weekend and the men's nationals the weekend after that". To take the first free Saturday, March 2, would bring the trial too close to the world championship in Antwerp on March 24, leaving athletes insufficient time to recover and prepare for the main event.

However, Tony Ward, the British Amateur Athletic Board spokesman, said that consideration of an alternative date might include the trials being incorporated into other, earlier, events. Alternatively, the selection policy was not "engraved in stone".

On the assumption that the trials would go ahead as planned, Baldaro added: "I hope the selectors will be prepared to amend the policy from taking the first x-number past the post." As it stands, in the men's trial the first six are guaranteed selection and in the women's, junior men's and junior women's events, the first four. The remaining places, the men's team comprises nine, the others six, are at the selectors' discretion.

Baldaro said that those who thought they could reach Basingstoke should bring road shoes in case the course does not take spikes. Those who were "marginal candidates" for Antwerp should make every attempt to attend, he said, rather than "risk the vagaries of selection policy".

IN BRIEF

Gibney to step down

GEORGE Gibney has resigned after 11 years as head coach to the Irish swimming team, to devote more time to the Trojan Club and the sports centre he manages in Dublin.

Meanwhile, Suki Brownsdon returns to competition at Southampton from March 8 to 10.

ATHLETICS: Wendy Sly, the 1984 Olympic 3,000 metres silver medal winner, will race for the first time in more than a year, in the Harrow open 5km road race on Sunday.

- Kerry Saxby, of Australia set the thirtieth world best of her walking career with a time of 11min 51.26sec in the women's 3.000m in Melbourne.

RIFLE SHOOTING: The Egyptian federation is postponing the world championships in Cairo because of the Gulf War.

CRICKET: Leicestershire have signed fast-medium bowler Craig Wilkinson, who topped the West Australian grade bowling averages last season.

REAL TENNIS: Sheila Mackintosh and Bill Colegrave are among the favourites for the Billy Ross Skinner mixed doubles invitation tournament, at Hampton Court from today.

CYCLING: Stephen Roche, of Ireland, could miss key World Cup races this season after his Tonton Tapis team failed to make the grade for a guaranteed place in every peloton. The team has been ranked 26th in the sport. Only the top 20 are guaranteed a start in World Cup races outside their own country.

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THE TIMES
SPORT
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8 1991

- RACING 35
- RUGBY UNION 35
- SKIING 36

Gascoigne joins the world-weary warriors

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE players who represented England in the World Cup are in danger of burning themselves out, according to the national manager. Graham Taylor notes that almost half of the squad taken to Italy by his predecessor last summer have since shown signs of physical wear and tear.

Paul Gascoigne is carrying the latest piece of evidence which would appear to prove the theory. When he aggravated a groin strain during the 2-0 victory over Cameroon at Wembley on Wednesday night, he became the ninth member of Bobby Robson's group to suffer from a muscular injury. The list is too long to be a mere coincidence.

John Barnes, Peter Beardsley, Steve Hodge, Steve McMahon, David Platt, Bryan Robson, Trevor Steven and Neil Webb have been victims of similar stress and Taylor is not surprised that they have broken down. The burden they are being asked to bear on and off the pitch is becoming intolerably heavy.

"They played through the World Cup and that gave them the impetus to keep going. Now that the grass is not so green, it is a grind and they are still playing every three or four days. They have had no respite.

"All 22 have been excellent in the way that they have applied themselves. They have done themselves and their clubs proud, but if you keep hammering away, you will have problems. Like a car, you need a service from time to time and I wonder if we expect too much from them.

"It makes a mockery of the decision to increase the first division to 22 clubs. That was made hastily and rashly. It doesn't help our football. When I was in charge at Aston Villa and we had 44 second-division games, we just didn't have time to practice."

He is equally concerned about the demands being applied from outside the game. Although he recognises the attraction of the lucrative rewards to be gained, he insists that the players should safeguard their own futures. "They've got to be able to say no. My worry is that football goes down the list of priorities."

Taylor sensed that his side, trapped in the relentless club programme since the last game in Dublin four months ago, could not readjust on Wednesday. "They were rusty. It is not their fault, but they had turned off from international football." During the interval, he offered them a sharp verbal reminder.

He could see that Cameroon, whose display was as unappealing as their conduct before their visit to Wembley, were being treated with excessive generosity. "They were waiting to be turned over, for God's sake. They were lying down in front of us. You don't give a sucker a second chance.

"I asked why Paul Gascoigne was picking the ball up from the back four when we had three defenders marking one opponent. Why was he taking free kicks on the halfway line? It wasn't a poor performance. It was a comprehensive win, but the Republic of Ireland would have beaten them by six.

"They wouldn't have dwelt at the back and they would have squeezed the life out of them in midfield. For all the possession we had, I was nowhere near satisfied that we hurt them enough. We should have been more decisive and authoritative and been less reluctant to play the ball quickly."

He has noticed the same deficiency in the previous games against Hungary and Poland. Rather than injecting a sense of urgency into their approach, England have tended to accept the time and the room given to them by the three foreign opponents. Predictably, the Irish were not so accommodating in November.

Nor do they promise to be next month. Taylor foresees the European championship qualifying tie following a similarly hectic pattern. The larger size of the Wembley pitch, he said, "should make a difference and I'll have to pick a team that knows how to cope with the Irish." His midfield, though, may be less than ideal.

He does not yet know whether Gascoigne, McMahon, Platt or Webb will be available. Nor was he prepared to reveal whether Robson can expect to retain his place and the captaincy and continue his pursuit of 100 caps. Assessments of individuals, he agreed, was difficult on Wednesday.

"It was as though one team had the ball. It was so easy. I would have been most disappointed if anyone couldn't have coped. No England player should have been in any distress."

Simon Barnes, page 37
New job for Macari, page 37

Prospect for weekend bleak

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

INCLEMENT weather has severely affected the sporting programme this weekend. Barely a dozen Football League matches were given a realistic chance of going ahead yesterday.

Tomorrow is expected to be the worst day for postponements since January 17, 1987, when 37 of 46 League fixtures were lost to the weather.

In the first division, only the matches at Arsenal, where the under-soil heating has been switched on since Tuesday, Manchester City, home to Chelsea, and Anfield, where Liverpool meet Everton in the Mersyeside derby, are expected to take place. Of tonight's programme, just the fourth divison match at Torquay, where Cardiff City are the visitors, looks certain to start. On Sunday, Manchester United are confident of staging their Rumbelows Cup semi-final against Leeds United.

Inevitably, this week's Siberian chill has renewed calls for the installation of under-soil heating to be compulsory at first and second division clubs. Jim Greenwood, the Everton chief executive, yesterday said: "All the major grounds should have it. Our latest system of under-soil heating at Goodison cost us £70,000 ten years ago, but it has paid for itself ten times over. In football terms, the cost is chicken-feed for the guarantee of a game going ahead and being played in good conditions."

The idea of avoiding the freeze with a mid-winter break was raised by George Graham, the Arsenal manager, but that would logically take place in December and January, offering no solution to the problem of snow in February or March.

The prospects are equally bleak in Scotland, where the majority of pitches are snowbound. Under-soil heating at Ibrox and Tannadice should ensure that two premier division matches, involving Rangers and St Mirren and Dundee United and Hibernian, will procceed.

Racing has been even harder hit. There was no racing yesterday. Even though Lingfield's all-weather track was passed fit, the meeting was cancelled after stewards realised that the public would have trouble getting to the track.

The Courage Clubs Championship rugby union programme will also be severly disrupted. Even at venues where the playing surface can be covered, such as Leicester, scheduled to face Orrell, and Gloucester, who play Bath, the freezing temperatures make the prospect of play tomorrow doubtful.

Tomorrow's Heineken League premier division game between Newbridge and Neath has been postponed, and the Glamorgan Wanderers v Llanelli match is extremely doubtful.

A decision will be made today whether the national womens's indoor hockey championships, due to be staged at Crystal Palace tomorrow, will go ahead.

A lacrosse tour by an American team ended abruptly at The Parks, Oxford yesterday, when snow and bad light forced abandonment of the game between the English universities and Middlebury College, from Vermont, with the score at 6-6.

Lawson resigns to help London bid for Olympics

By JOHN GOODBODY

PETER Lawson, the secretary of the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR), yesterday cleared the way for a unified London bid for the Olympic Games when he resigned as a director of London Olympic 2000, one of two rival consortiums from the city.

The extended deadline given by the British Olympic Association (BOA) for a unified bid for the games is midnight tonight, and the two rival groups will meet today with a settlement very likely. Both London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Sebastian Coe, and the London Council for Sport and Recreation (LCSR), which represents the 33 boroughs and also sport in the capital, are optimistic that London will now oppose Manchester in the voting to become the British nomination for the Games.

Richard Sumray, vice-chairman of the LCSR, which had objected to Lawson's presence with London Olympic 2000, said: "I'm very hopeful that the deal can be struck. I'm optimistic, as indeed I have been for the last few days."

Lawson's walking-out on the London Olympic bid has certainly removed the main obstacle to a settlement. The role of Coe will have to be settled, but here a compromise should be achieved.

For Lawson, who was one of the original motivators for the bid, the resignation will be a great disappointment, as he will not go forward with London when it seeks the nomination from the BOA in April and, if successful, from the International Olympic Committee in September 1993 when it votes on the location for the 2000 Games.

As secretary of the CCPR, which represents the national governing bodies, including all the Olympic sports, he will still have a valuable role in the background. However, there was widespread opposition to his presence in the foreground, particularly from BOA officers and also from the LCSR, which has to consider the impact of the games on the capital as a whole and not just on British sport. There has been a difference in policies accentuated by the clash in personalities.

In a resignation statement, Lawson said: "In the interests of Great Britain, the British people and British sport, I'm personally withdrawing from involvement in the exciting and imaginative plan to bring the Olympic Games to this country through a sound and viable bid by London.

"I've taken this decision because it has become apparent from press coverage of this matter in recent days as an individual I am perceived by the LCSR to be the stumbling block to bringing the Games to London.

"The perception of me as an obstacle to the development of sport in London is, in my view, unfortunate and inaccurate. Nevertheless, my passionate belief in the ability of London to win the approval of the IOC when it meets in 1993, thus bringing the Games to Britain in the magic year 2000, is of over-riding importance."

Lawson added that he wished London Sport every success in a "unified dynamic and ultimately successful campaign which can triumph if led by Sebastian Coe." He stressed that the CCPR support for London Olympic 2000 was undiminished.

Provided that agreement is finalised today and that one letter is given to the BOA, the next task must be to bring back Tarmac, the construction company, which had lost interest in the bid because of the disputes. It is widely believed that any bid for the Games, which is expected to cost £1 billion, is only likely to succeed if there is cooperation between private finance and local and central government.

Manchester's case, page 36

Winning grand prix combination

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Reunion with old friend: Mansell at the Williams collection with a car from the past that brought him success

New challenge for England

AUCKLAND (AFP) — England's downhearted cricket team arrived here yesterday to play a New Zealand side confident of increasing England's misery on tour.

Unable to escape the ignominy of their 3-0 Ashes defeat, England are to play three one-day internationals, the first in Christchurch tomorrow, against the New Zealand side which prevented them reaching the finals of the World Series Cup in Australia. Although they lost in the final, New Zealand's confidence is high, as they beat Sri Lanka 3-0 in a one-day series.

Peter Lush, the England team manager, would only agree to hold a press conference on condition that no questions were asked about the Australian tour. But Graham Gooch, the England captain, said the players would have to stop worrying about losing their place in the team and concentrate on playing here.

Gooch said success in New Zealand would be no compensation for the humiliation in Australia. "You have got to expect that when things are not going well and you are playing poorly that the press will heap the blame on somebody. I don't take much store in that. It was a very disappointing tour of Australia. We didn't play anywhere near our potential.

"I look forward to the one-dayers here and hope for an improved performance. But this is no redemption. Three one-dayers here won't do that."

Gooch, who described his team as jaded, said he had a healthy respect for New Zealand. The home side's captain, Martin Crowe, said in a separate interview that his team had become a much better side in recent weeks.

"We have a bit more depth in all departments," he said. Players were starting to understand their roles in the team and the functions they had to carry out in order to win.

Crowe said he believed New Zealand had the edge against England. "We're confident, but I realise one-day games can turn nasty on you if you turn off. We're very keen to keep turned on and keep performing."

● Sir Richard Hadlee, the former New Zealand all-rounder, was discharged from Dunedin Hospital yesterday. Hadlee, aged 39, had collapsed at New Zealand's one-day match against Sri Lanka. Hospital staff said Hadlee had been admitted with an irregular heartbeat. Danny Morrison, his former pace bowling partner, said Hadlee had been working 12-hour days on media commitments.

Cricket 2000, page 34

Mansell back in the old routine

By NORMAN HOWELL

NIGEL Mansell is back. The British driver yesterday spoke of his eagerness and enthusiasm for the forthcoming Formula One grand prix season. And with a glint in his eye, he admitted that he is already making plans for 1992.

He said: "Frank Williams has already started negotiating with me for '92. You see, we had the 'misfortune' of going fast at a recent test session in France: when someone can take an old car and make it go three seconds a lap faster than it has ever been done before, it makes people sit up and pay attention. So I am looking forward to 1992."

He is delighted at being back in a British team. "When I was in Italy, I never realised how little I understood about what happened around me. I made efforts with the language, but I never could master technical Italian. And I began to speak the pidgin English, just to make myself understood. I ended up talking like that all the time, and that was weird. But here I can really participate, understand, get involved. And I know that at Williams I will always be given the best there is, and will be given first choice. I call this my 'comfort zone'."

Mansell diplomatically refers to Riccardo Patrese, the veteran Italian driver, as "joint No. 1 driver, because at Williams there will always be more than one of the best of everything, and so I am sure that Riccardo will also get first-class treatment."

He denies that he ever felt isolated at Ferrari. "That team truly is a family. I made so many good friends there . . . but I suppose that I was frustrated, the language was the main reason. But the fans loved me, called me The Lion, because of my fighting spirit. And I am proud of that."

All this from a man who announced his retirement last July, at the British Grand Prix. What happened then? "Conditions weren't right for me then and I have never wanted to just make up numbers." Ironically it was felt at the time that what precipitated his retirement was not so much the goings on in the darkened corridors of Ferrari politics, but Frank Williams' interest in Ayrton Senna, the McLaren-Honda driver. Mansell had apparently already done some kind of deal with Williams.

Still as is the way in Formula One, all is forgotten and both Englishmen will tell all who will listen that theirs is a partnership made in heaven. Yet Mansell, though excited by the new car, which he described as "totally new in concept, somewhere between the new McLaren and the Tyrrell," — is a little unsettled by its later preparation.

"You must consider that with a new gear box, new engine and new car, reliability may prove to be a problem." And of course reliability is what let him down in his difficult last season with Ferrari.

But Mansell immediately went on to praise Patrick Head, Williams' chief of design, as one of the two best in the world. "Last time around I won 13 races in his cars. There is no reason that we can't go on to have a similar success again."

Drug-testing could be extended to club level

By ALAN LORIMER

WITH drug abuse having being identified in the sport, the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) is considering introducing drug-testing at club level next season.

"There is an on-going review on the matter," Bill Hogg, the SRU secretary, said yesterday. "We are aware of the situation in other countries. The SRU is completely happy that there is no drug abuse in Scotland.

"The national squad is tested throughout the season at Murrayfield and at away games, and the testing procedure at Murrayfield applies to all our Scotland representative sides at all ages, including the schools sides."

However, Donald MacLeod, one of the SRU's medical advisers, said that testing could prove impractical to administer at club level. "There are ground rules laid down by the Scottish Sports Council for testing procedures which include the provision of certain facilities," he said. "In some cases these are simply not available."

MacLeod is proud of the fact that Scotland was the first country to start testing at all representative levels, but points to what he saw as a palpable ommission at the last World Cup. "No tests were actually done during the World Cup," he said. "In fact, the procedures were in place, but analysis of samples proved to be impracticable."

Hall of Fame denies Rose the place he deserves

By ROBERT KIRLEY

COMMENT

IF STATISTICS were the only gauge, Pete Rose would have been a shoo-in for election to the Baseball Hall of Fame, the highest honour in the game. Known as "Charlie Hustle", the former Cincinnati, Philadelphia and Montreal leader set many records, including 4,256 hits, more than any other player.

Cocky to a fault, he boasted years ago that he would become the first man to be elected unanimously to the Hall of Fame, never mind that Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb and Willie Mays, immortals all, had failed to do so.

The commissioner of baseball, the late A. Bartlett Giamatti, banned Rose from the sport on August 24, 1989, for gambling. Professional sportsmen in the United States who abuse drugs can expect a second chance, sometimes even a third, but in the transatlantic ethos, betting on one's sport is a one-time, terminal offence.

Rose finally prompted a unanimous vote this week. Twelve members of the board of the Hall of Fame ruled that banned players are ineligible for "enshrinement" in their museum, which is located in rural Cooperstown, New York. Rose is the only breathing player who is affected. His expulsion is for life, so he is out for good unless the present commissioner, Fay Vincent, reinstates him. This will not happen any time soon.

Rose was released from a prison camp in Illinois last month after serving five months for tax fraud. As part of his sentence, he is working as a PE teacher's assistant in Cincinnati, his hometown.

What should determine fitness for the Hall of Fame? Is it all hits, runs and stolen bases? Should character count? The hall honours some players who were, shall we say, non-church-goers. Cobb, a nasty man at and away from the ball park, was universally despised, but nobody ever disputed his baseball skills.

In September of 1985, Rose was at his peak, chasing Cobb's record of 4,191 career hits. His Reds were in Chicago and he was two hits away from drawing level with the legendary, long-deceased Detroit Tiger. Rather than wait till the club returned home, Rose, the player-manager, put himself in the line-up.

He hit a single in the first inning and singled again in the fifth to equal Cobb's record. The Chicago supporters could not believe their good luck. Then it rained. The game was delayed for two hours and the capacity crowd of 35,000 shrank to 10,000. When the action resumed, Rose was still playing. In the seventh inning, he struck a hot grounder that the shortstop, Shawon Dunston, barely handled for a put-out. "A foot either way and that would have been a hit," Dunston said. "That would have been the record."

By the ninth inning, his own players were pleading with Rose to save the record attempt for Cincinnati. Where was the glory in getting it in chilly, dark Chicago with only a few soaking supporters left? The score was tied, 5-5, two runners were on base and Rose, the consummate competitor, batted again. He made an out but his effort had been earnest. On that day, Rose was playing for the integrity of the game.

What was not known was that integrity was taking a hammering away from the diamond. Two years later, the evidence against Rose mounted. Giamatti's investigation generated a media extravaganza that overwhelmed the season.

The directors of the Hall of Fame have had their say, and they have legislated bad-boy Pete out of his niche in Cooperstown. Pardon Ty Cobb while he snickers. Perhaps it should be remembered that the hall is a repository for the game's memories and memorabilia, good and bad.

Rose did not hurt baseball, only himself. He belongs in the Hall of Fame for the same reason that Jesse James's six-shooter belongs in the Smithsonian national museum.